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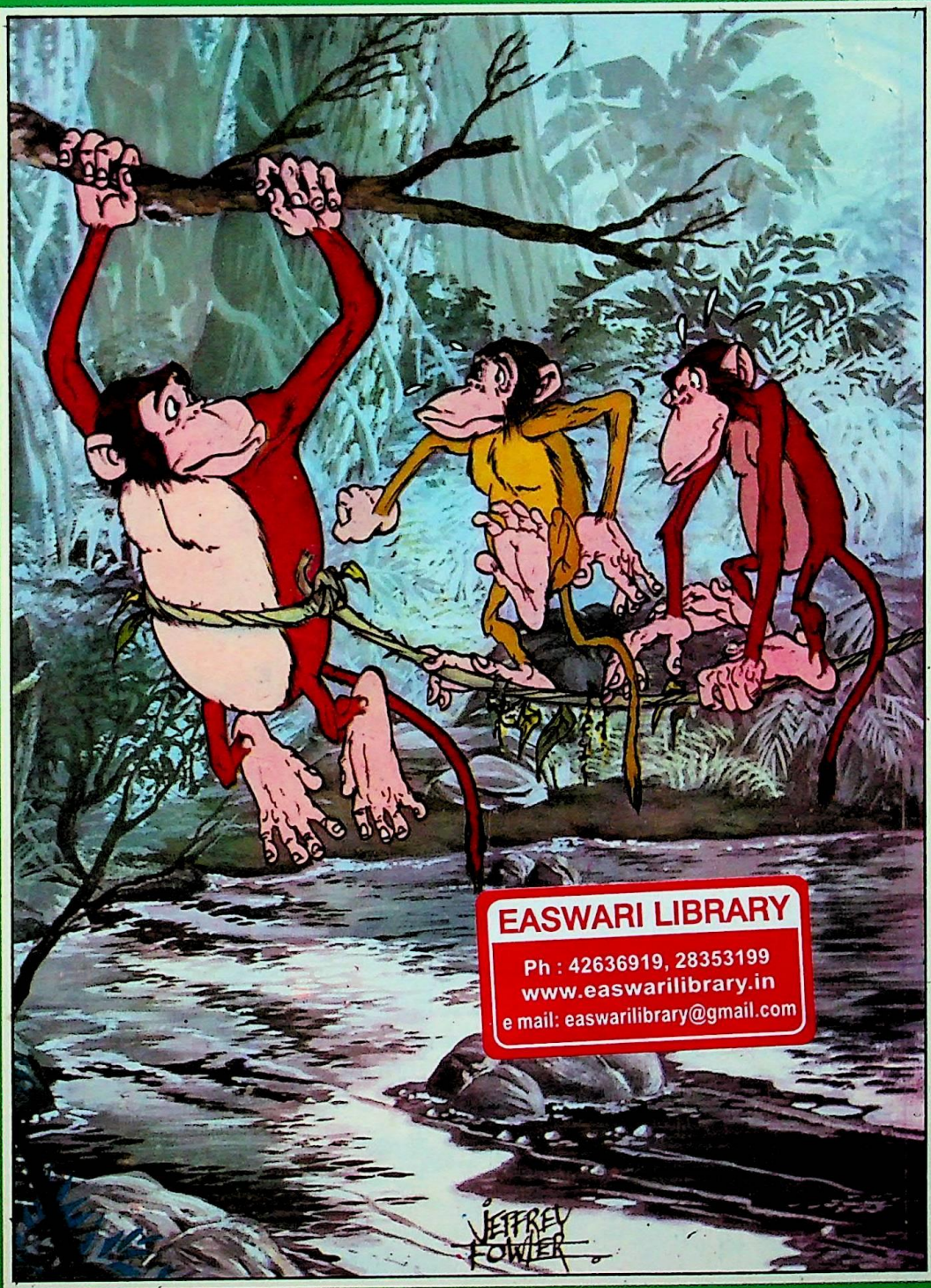
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

Vol. 543 Rs 25

Jataka Tales

Monkey Stories



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Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India

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Jataka Tales
Monkey Stories

The Jatakas on which the present title is based is a collection of five hundred and fifty stories, included in the Pali canon. They are tales in which the life of Bodhisatva in his previous births is narrated. The Bodhisatva is one, who by performing virtuous, kind and intelligent acts, aspires to become a Buddha.

Jataka tales are based on folklore, legends and ballads of ancient India. We cannot assign a definite date to the Jataka stories. Taking into account archaeological and literary evidence it seems likely that they were compiled in the period, third century B.C. to fifth century A.D. They give us invaluable information about ancient Indian civilization, culture and philosophy.

The Jataka stories have been very popular in the Buddhist world. These stories have been translated almost in all the languages of the Buddhist countries such as Chinese, Tibetan, Sinhalese, Siamese, Burmese, Japanese and also in many modern European languages. These stories have encouraged painting and sculpture in ancient India and other Buddhist countries. Sanchi, Bharhut, Amaravati and Ajanta in India, Borobudur in Java, Pegan in Burma and Sukhodaya in Thailand bear testimony to the popularity of these tales.

The present book is a collection of a few Jataka stories in which the Bodhisatva is born as a monkey. We hope, in the words of Prof. Rhys Davids that "we may still turn with appreciation to the ancient book of the Buddhist Jataka tales as a priceless record of the childhood of our race".

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
Over 78 million copies sold so far.

Written by : *Meena Talim*

Illustrated by: Jeffrey Fowler

Editor: Anant Pai

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* THE MONKEY KING'S SACRIFICE

★ BASED ON MAHA KAPI JATAKA

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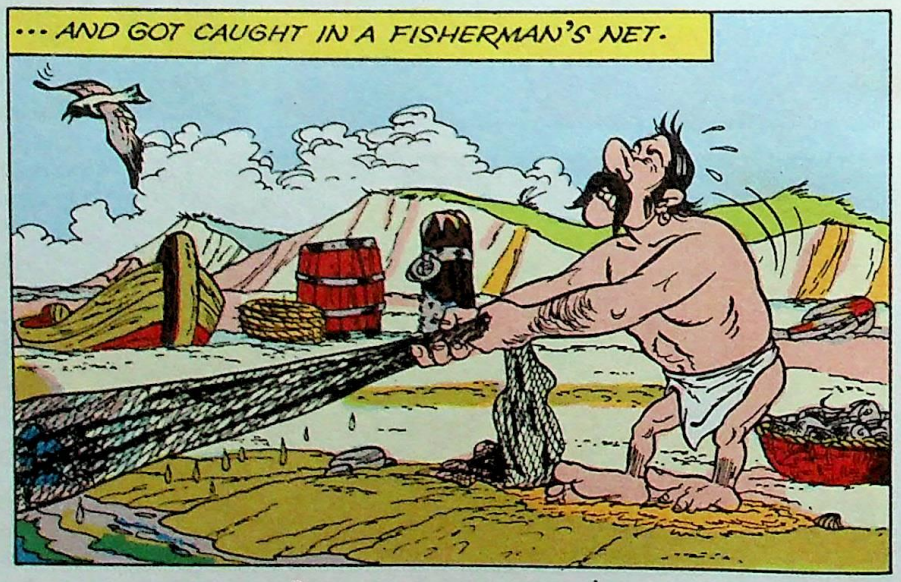

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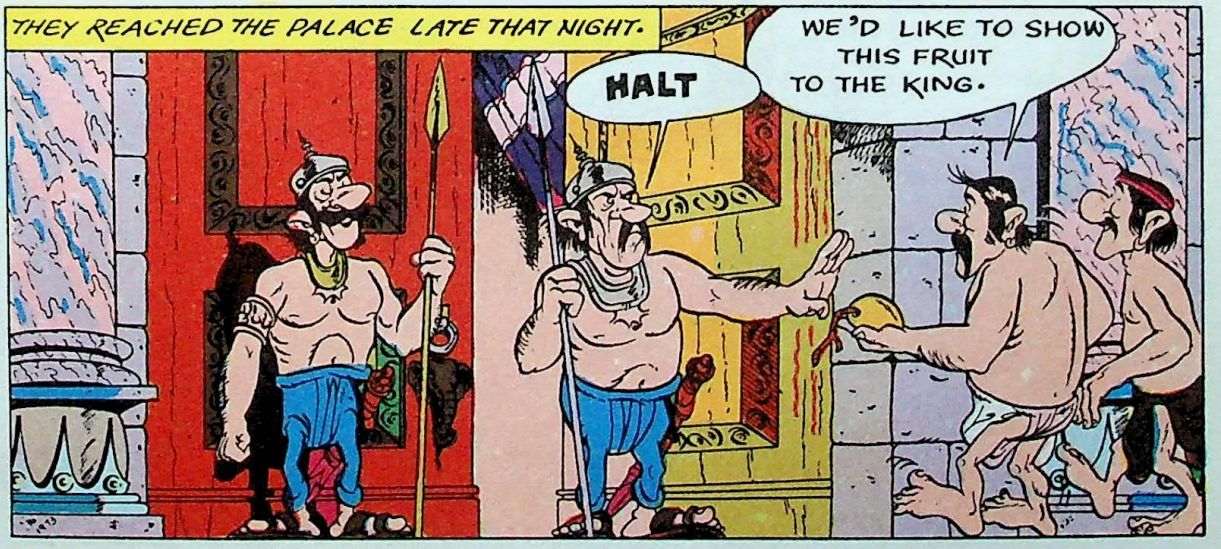

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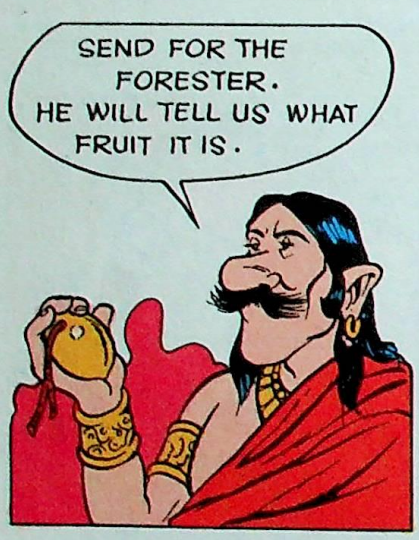

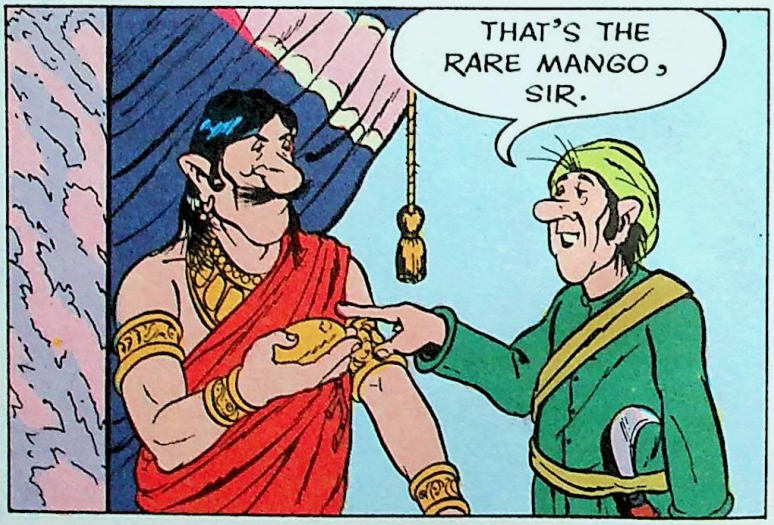

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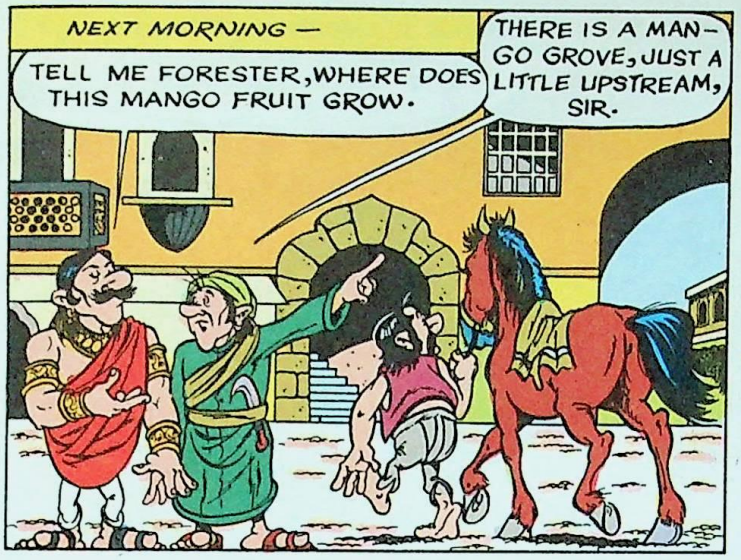

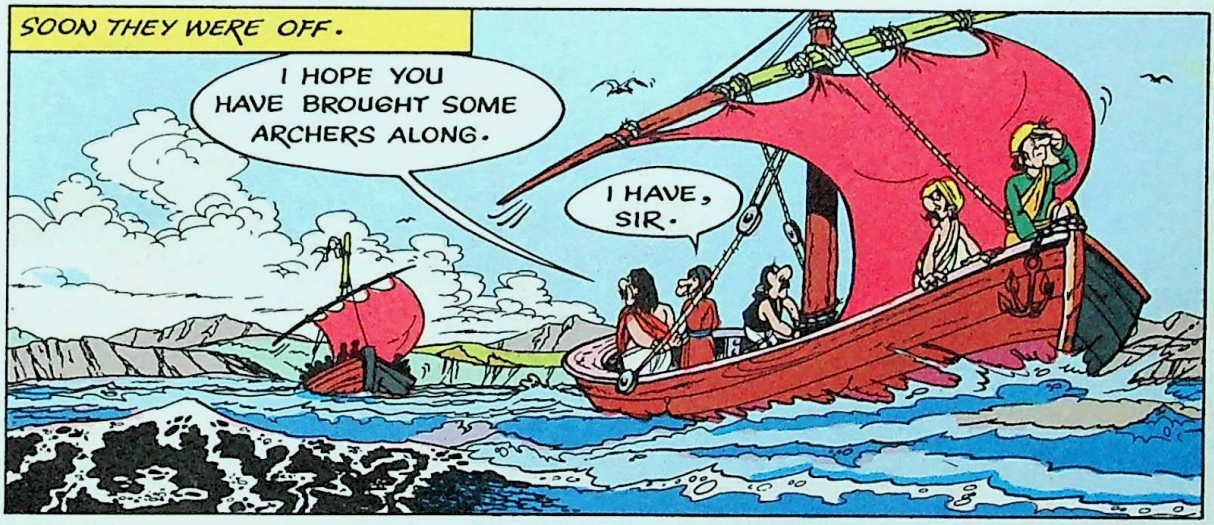

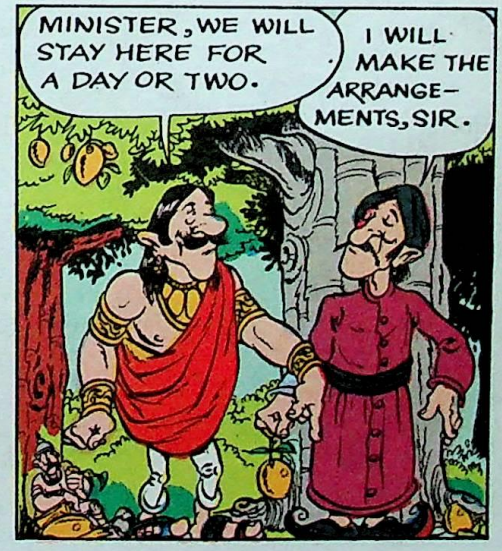

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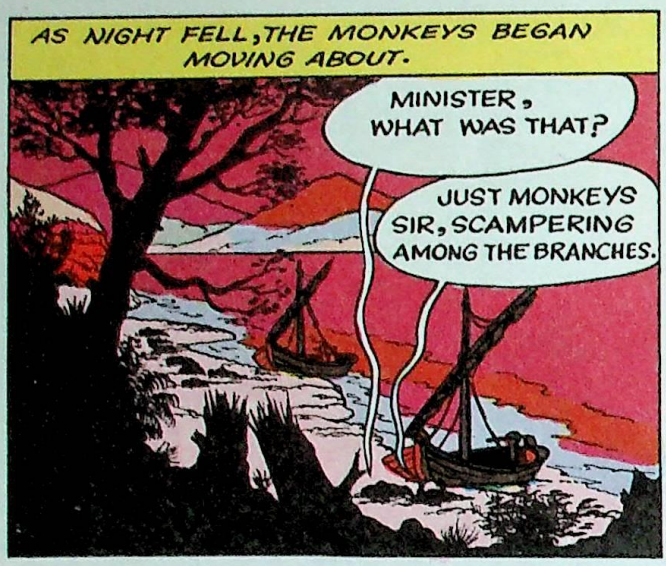

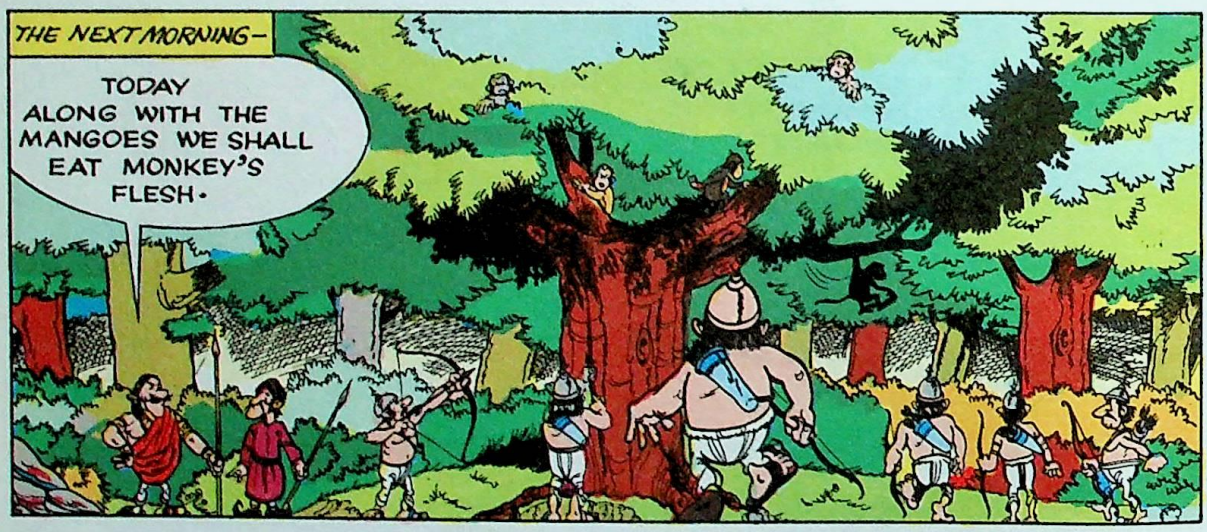

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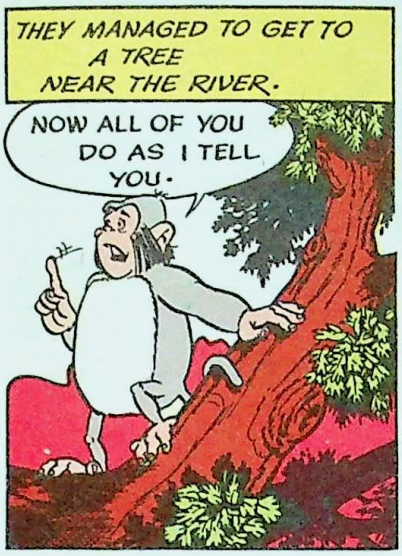

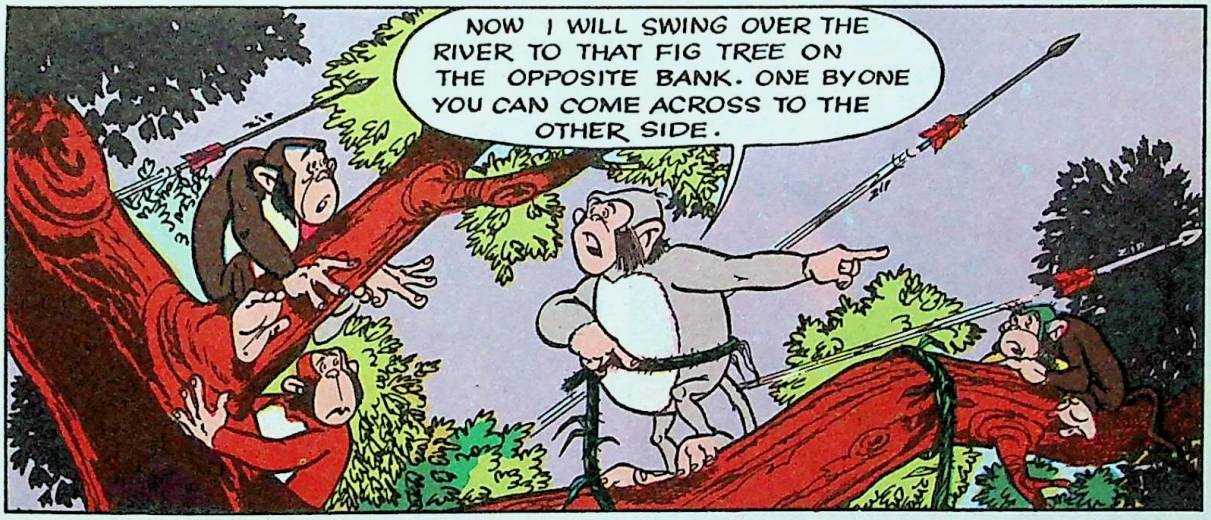

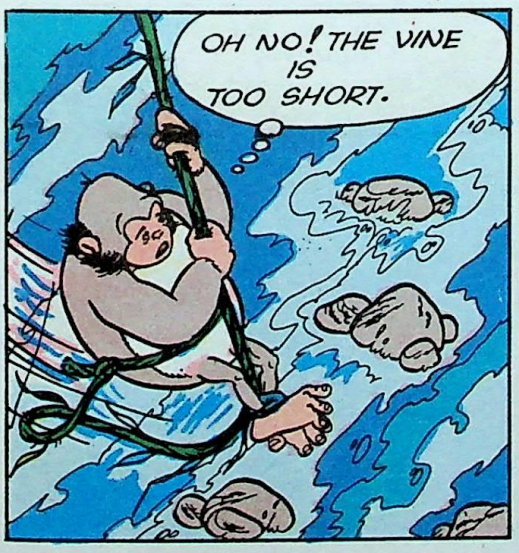

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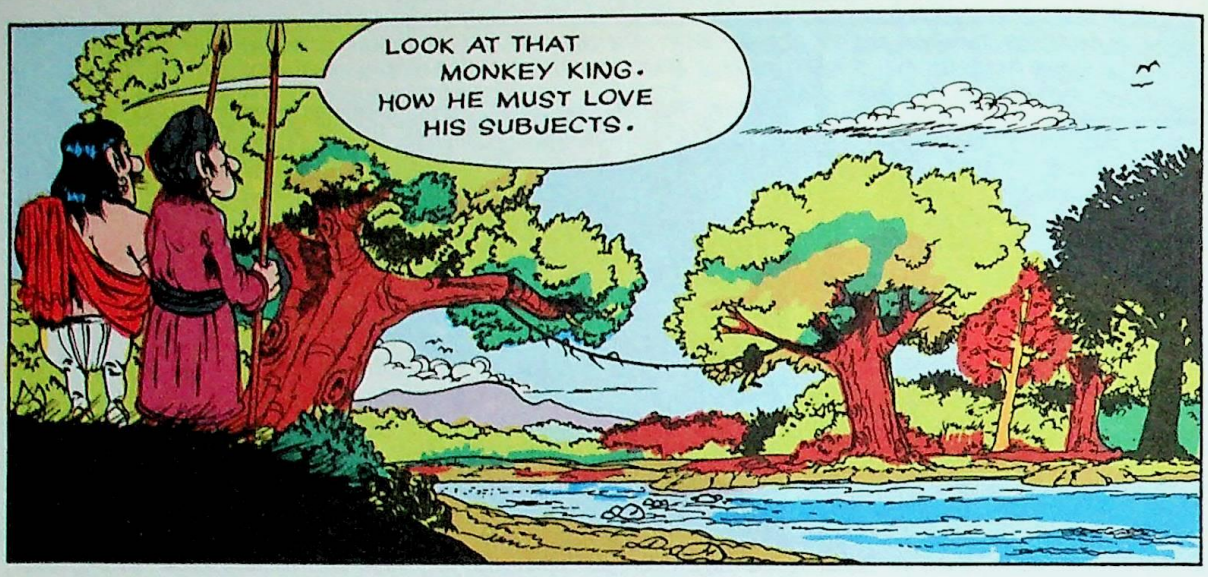

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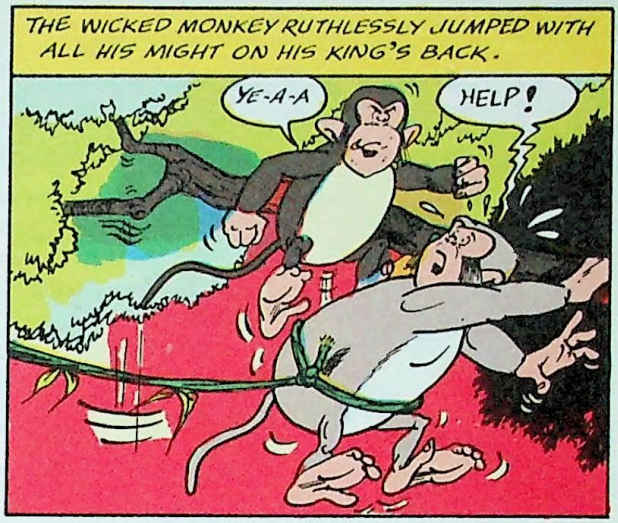

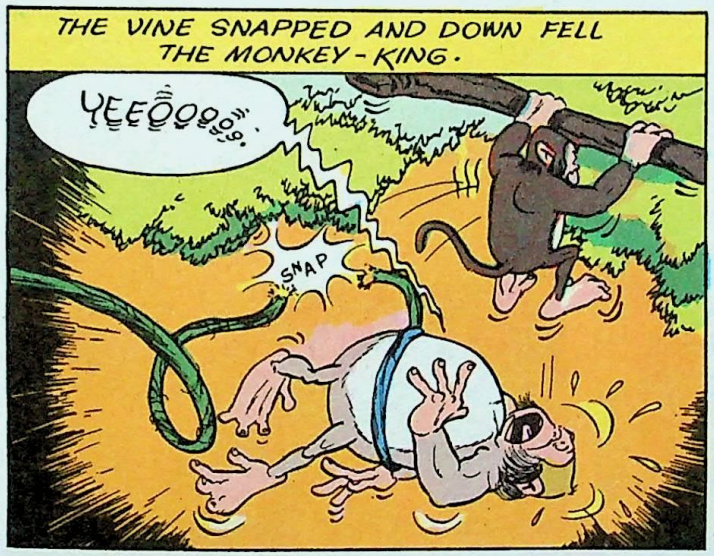

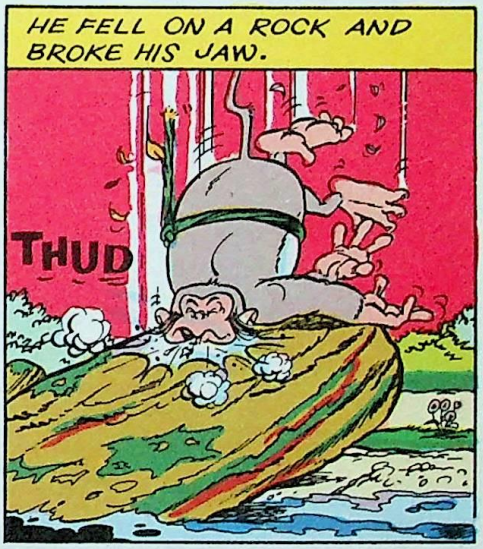

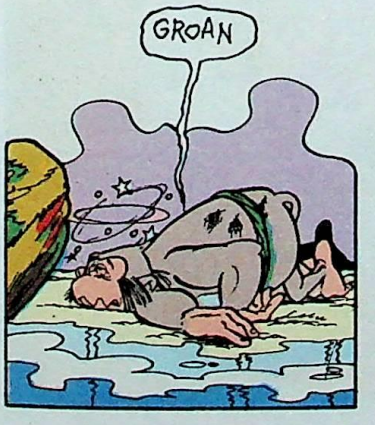

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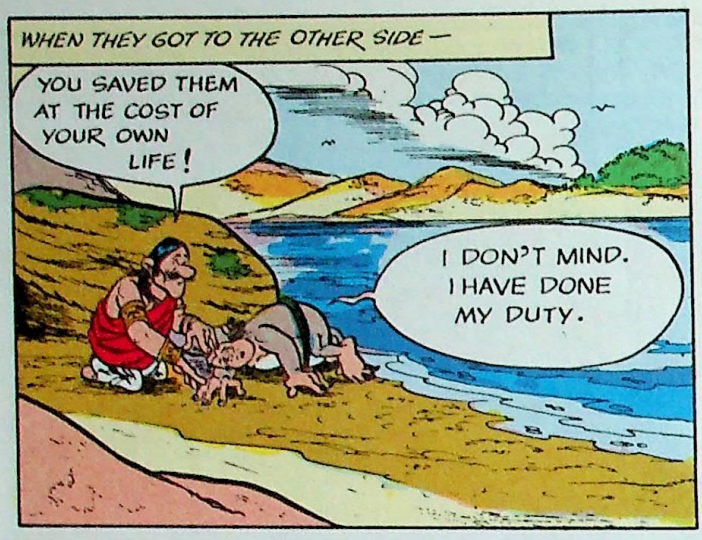

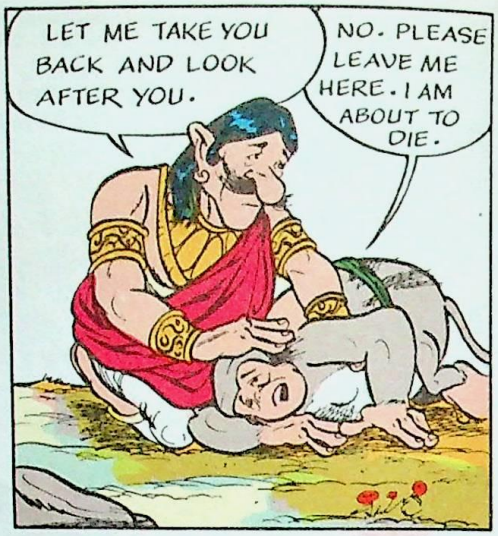

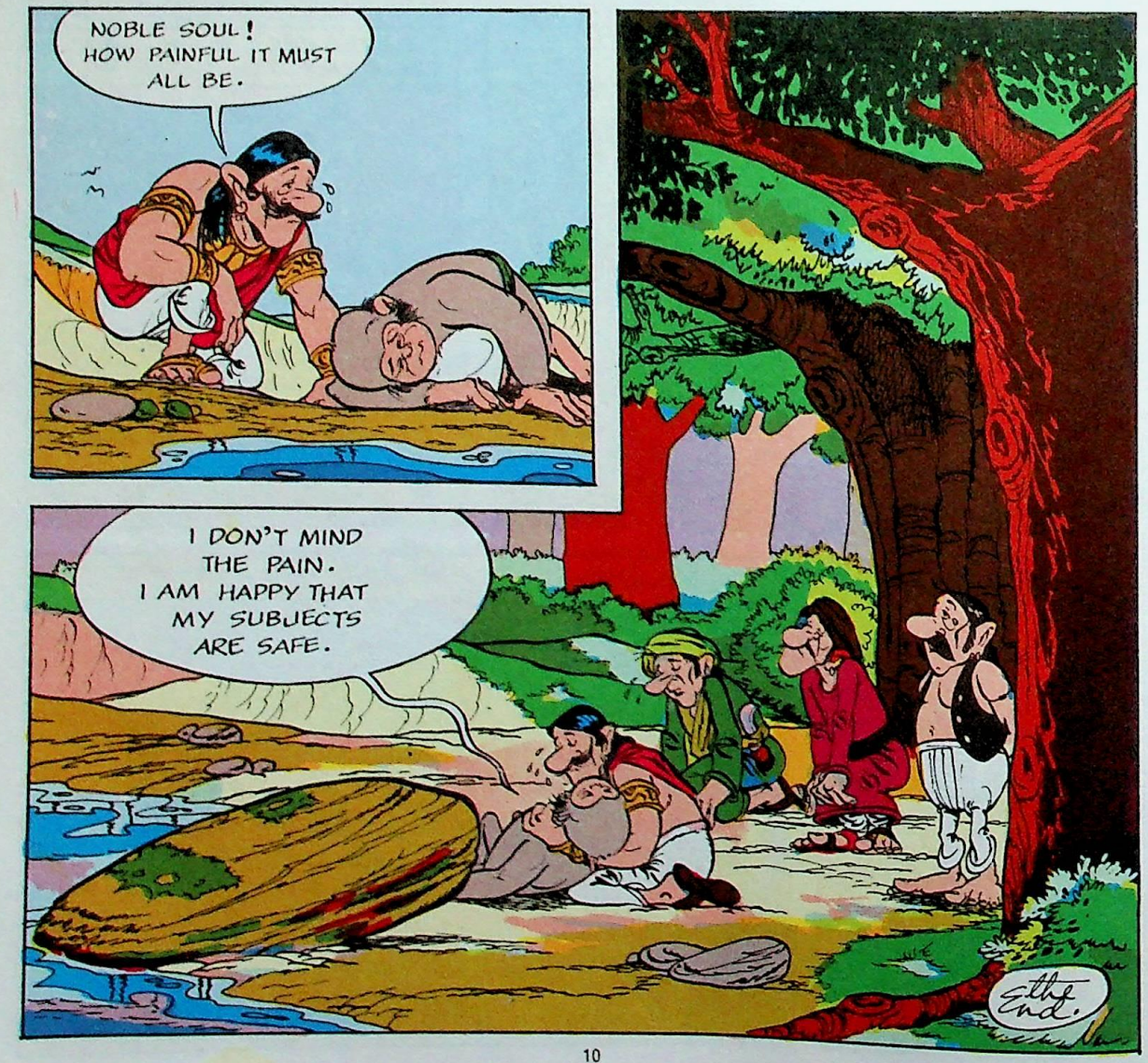

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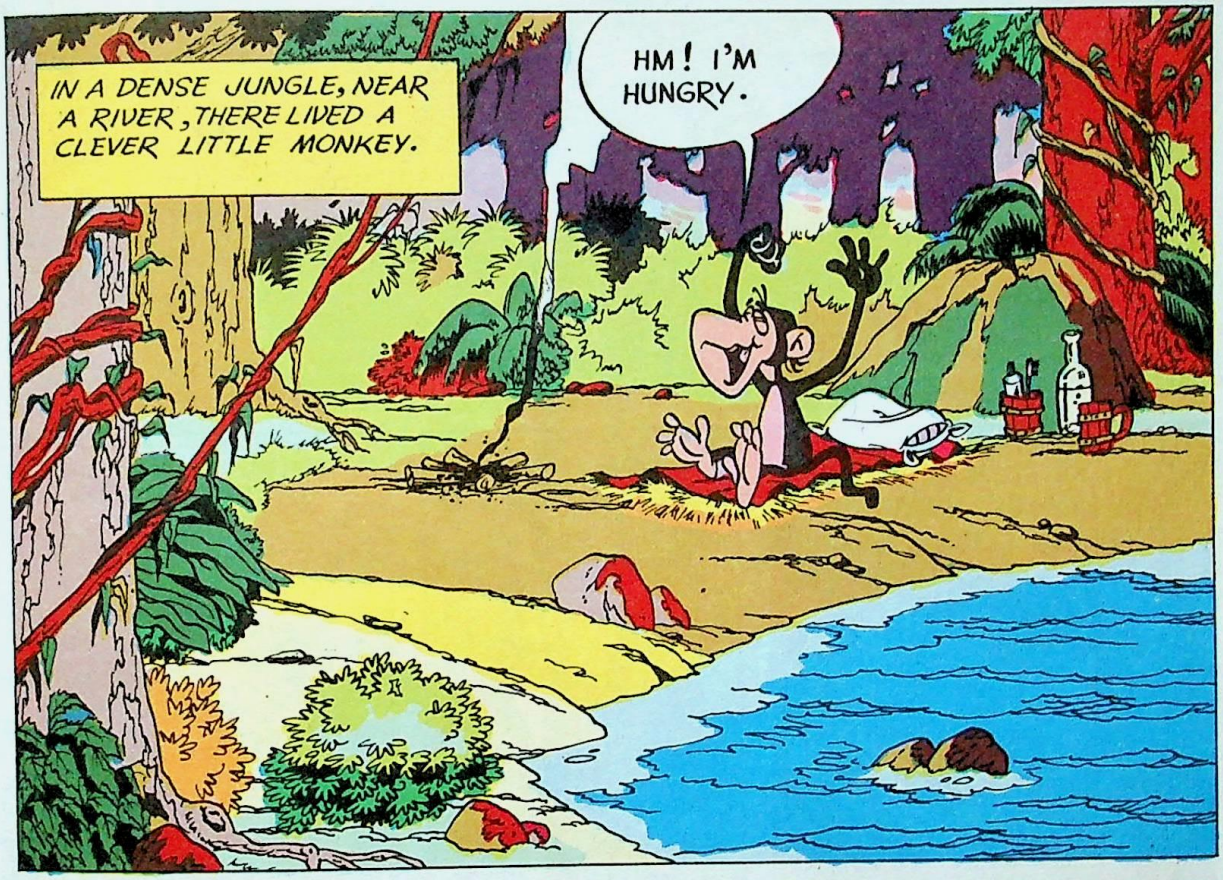
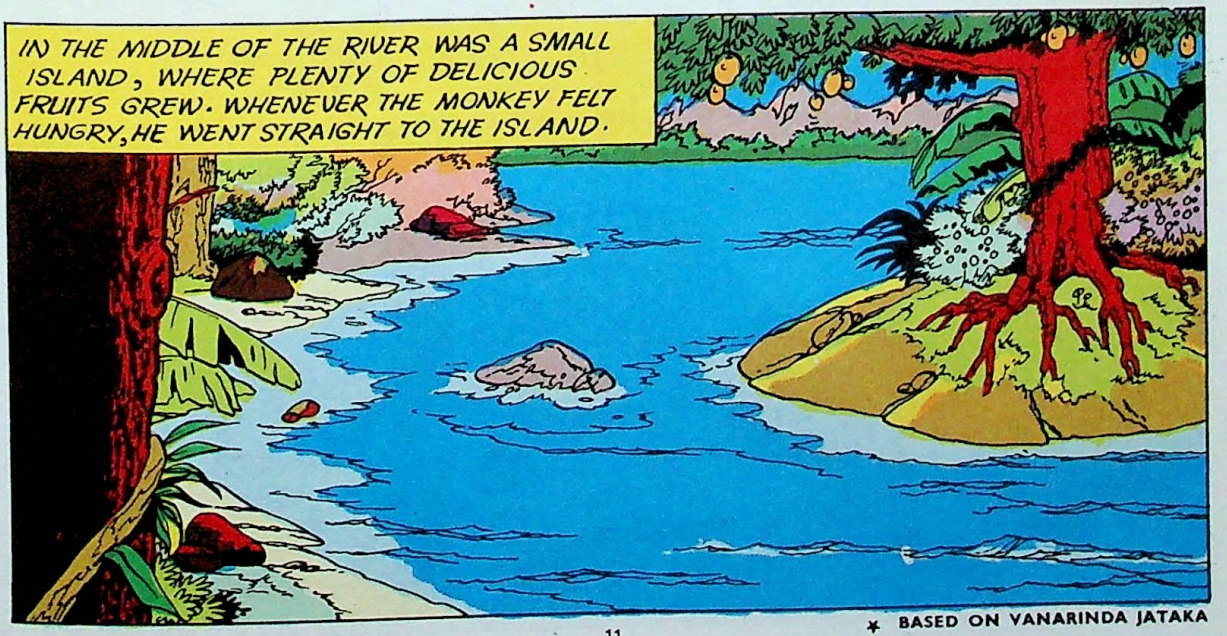
*THE STUPID CROCODILE AND THE MONKEY





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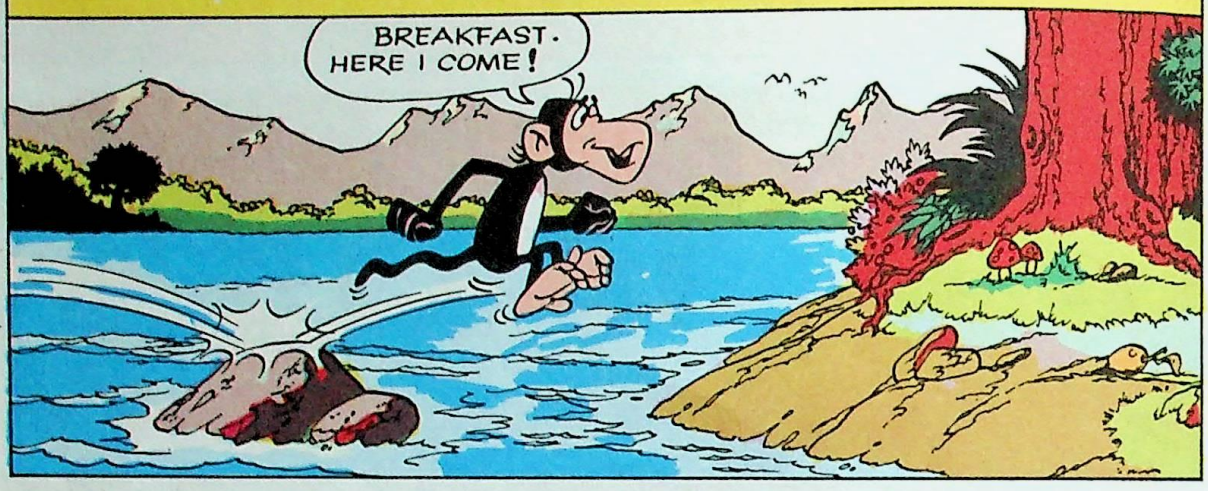
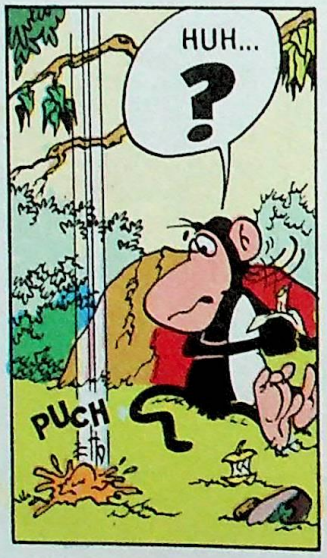
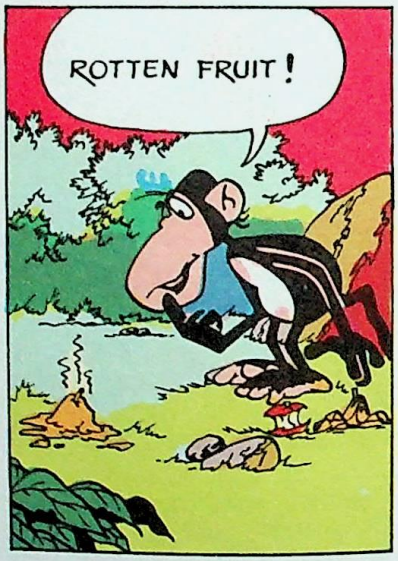
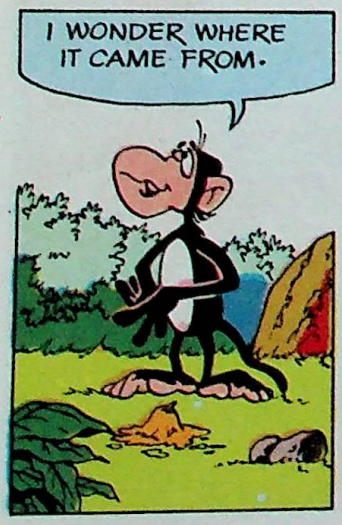
HE WOULD JUMP FROM THE BANK, ONTO A ROCK IN THE RIVER AND THEN TO THE SMALL ISLAND.









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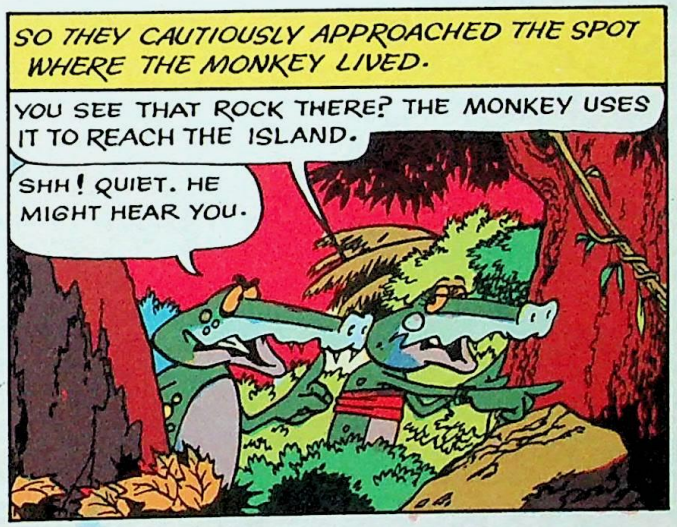

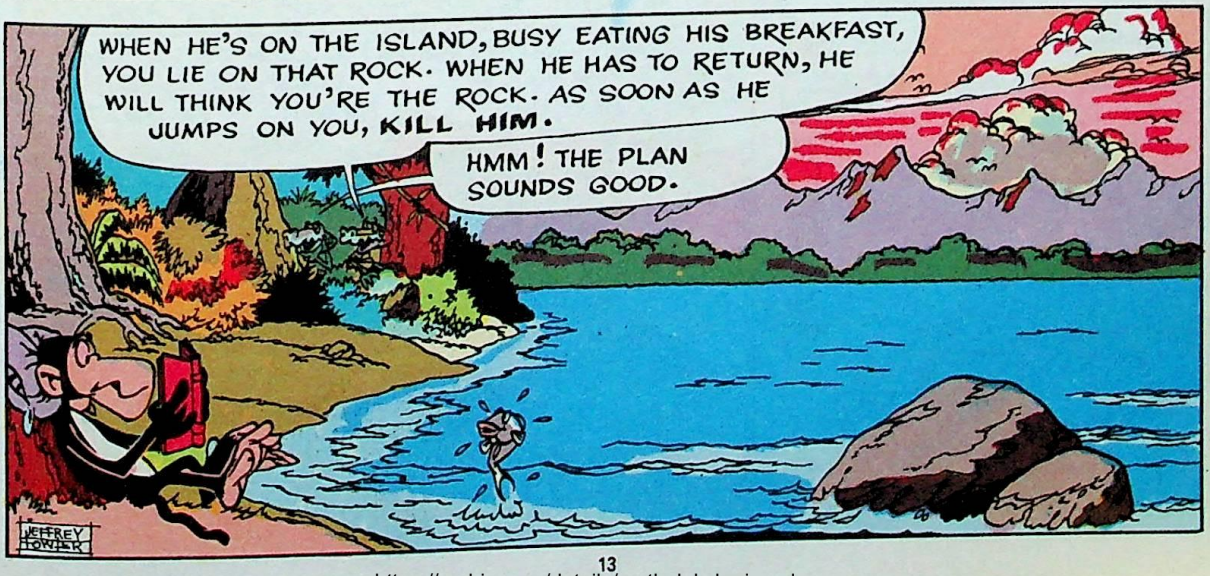

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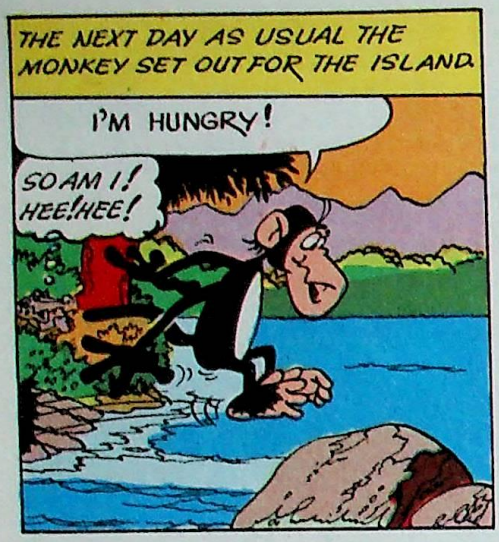

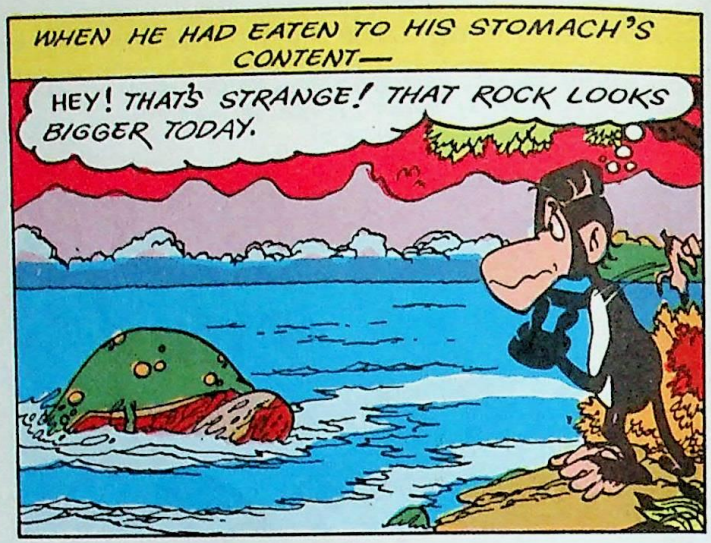

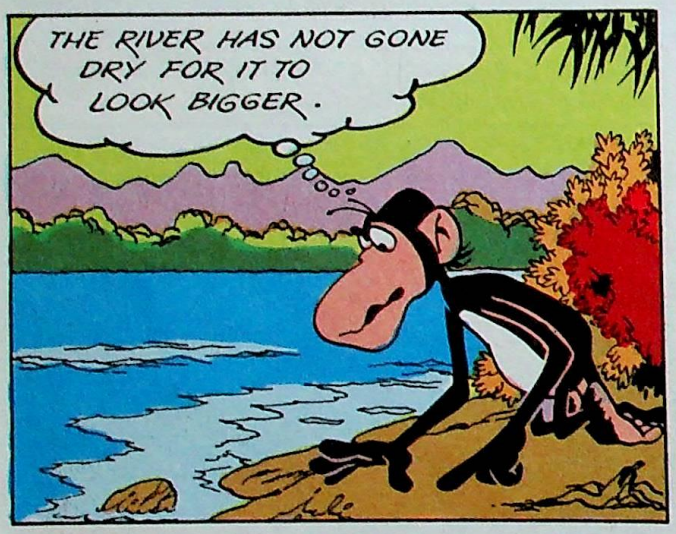

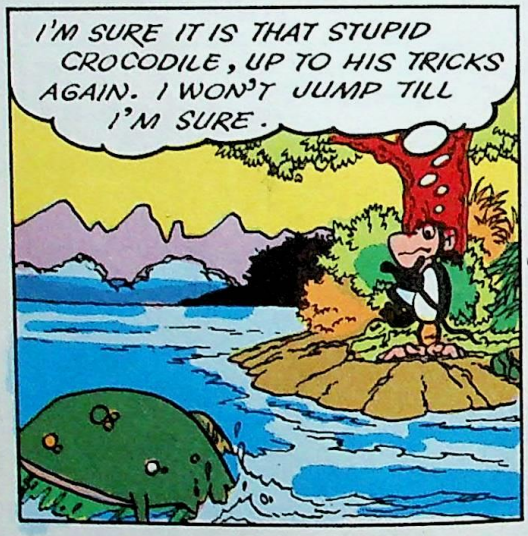

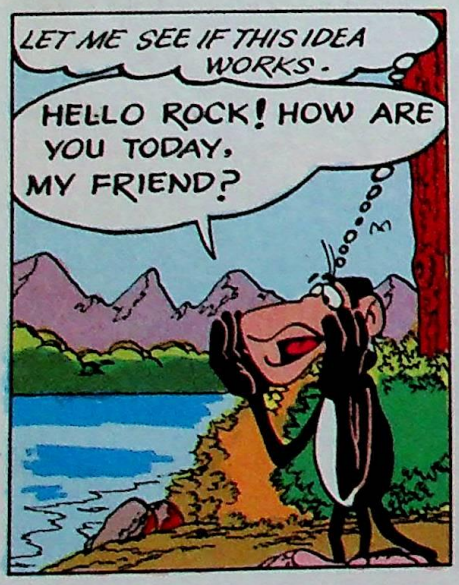

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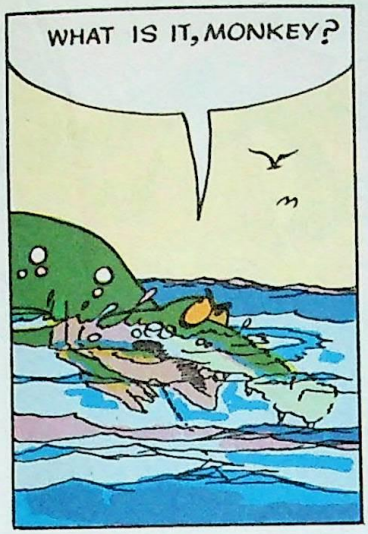

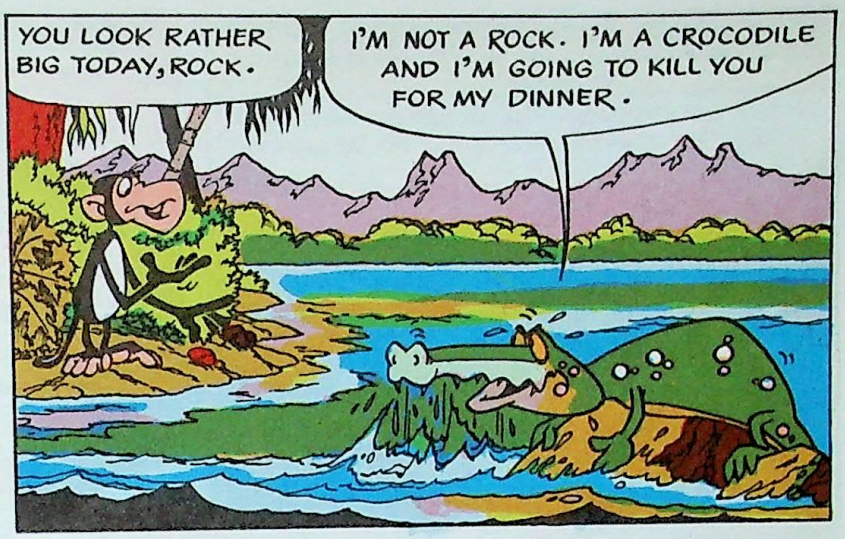

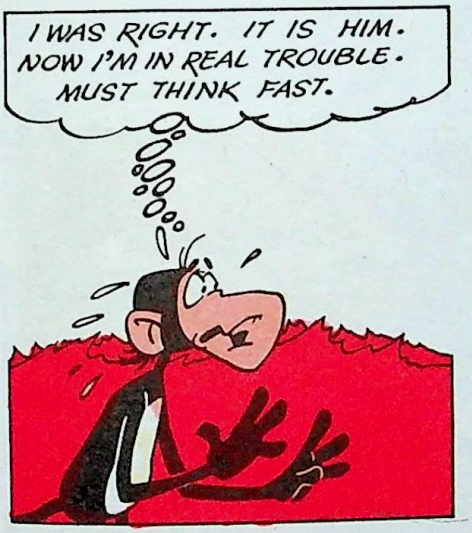

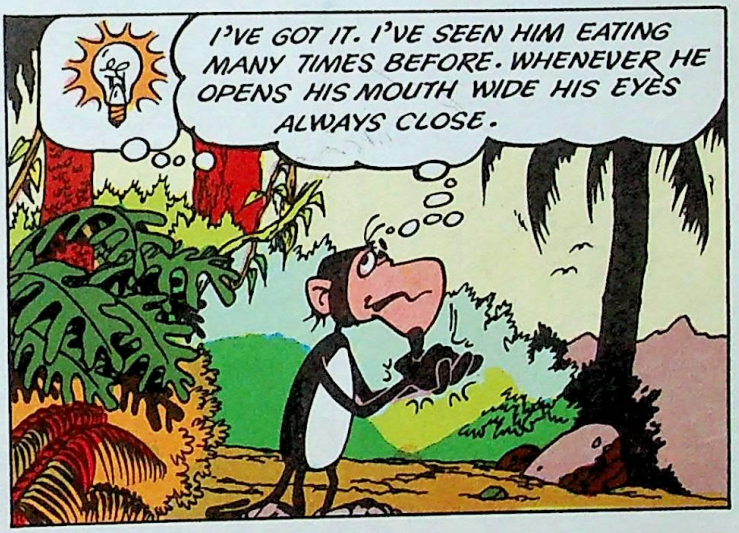

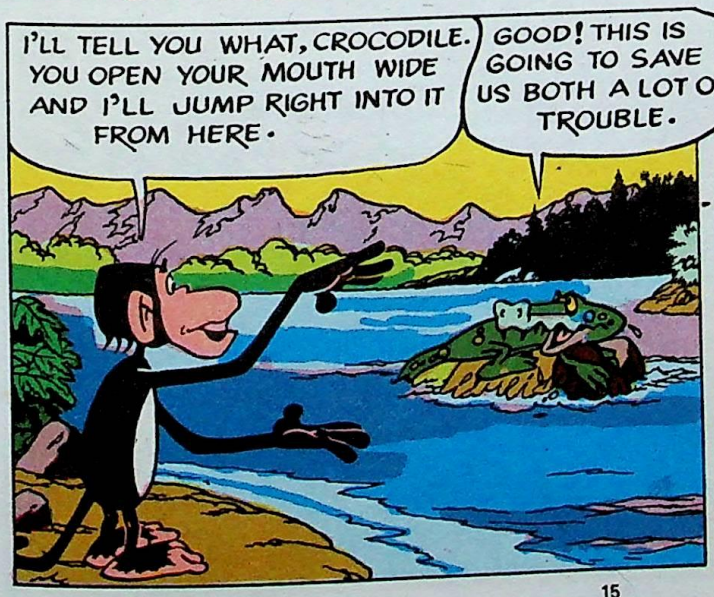

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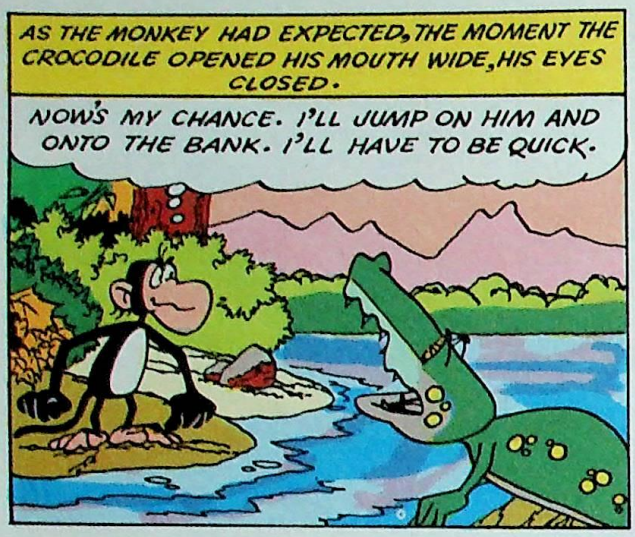

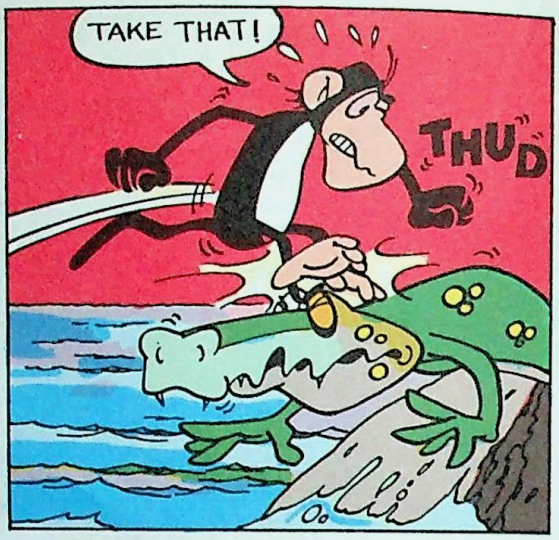

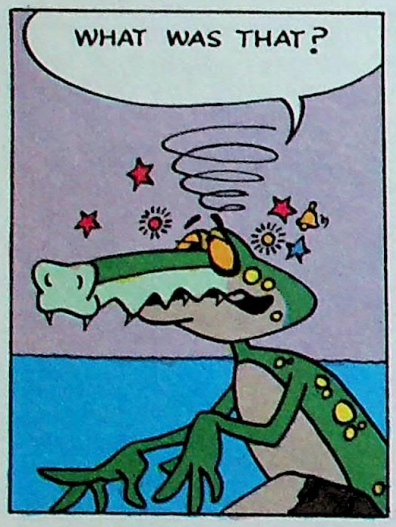

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*THE DEMON OUTWITTED

LONG AGO A BAND OF MONKEYS CAME AND SETTLED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A FOREST.

THE LEADER WHO KNEW THE PLACE WELL, CALLED A MEETING.

ATTENTION, ALL OF YOU! I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY.

YOU WILL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT TWO THINGS IN THIS FOREST.

?

THERE ARE CERTAIN POISONOUS TREES WITH VERY TEMPTING FRUIT AND ONE OF THE LAKES IS HAUNTED BY A DEMON.

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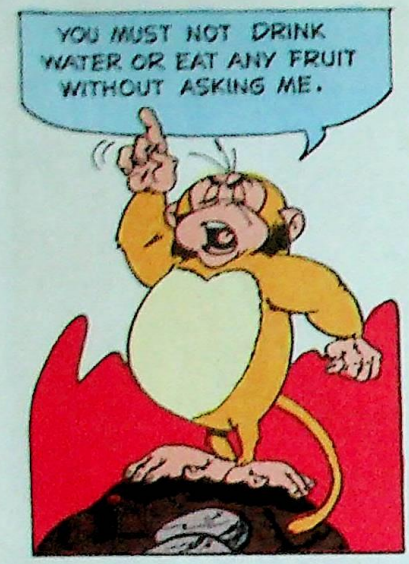

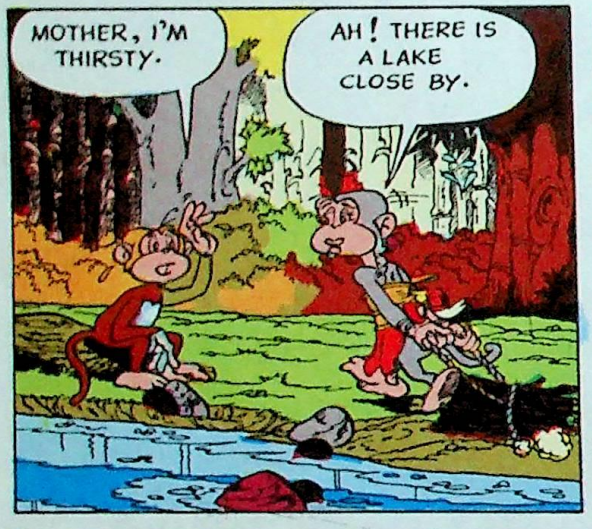

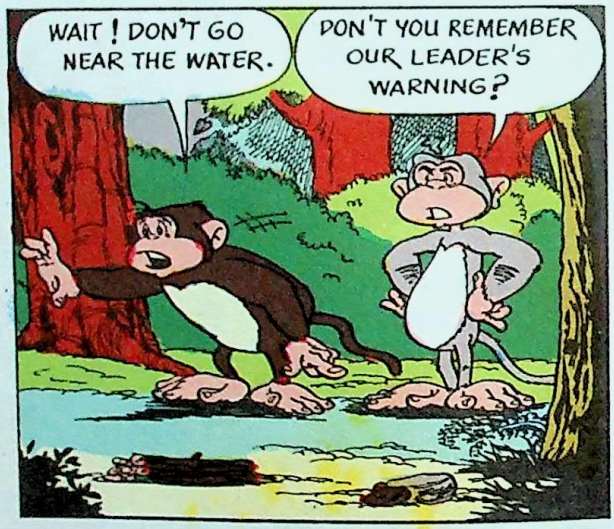

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A LITTLE LATER—

AH! HERE HE IS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU SEEM TO HAVE A PROBLEM.

MASTER, WE ARE VERY THIRSTY.

WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU TO LET US KNOW IF THIS LAKE IS SAFE.

THAT WAS VERY WISE OF YOU. NOW LET ME EXAMINE THE LAKE.

HMM! ALL THE FOOTSTEPS LEAD INTO THE LAKE.

BUT NOT A SINGLE ONE LEADS OUT OF IT.

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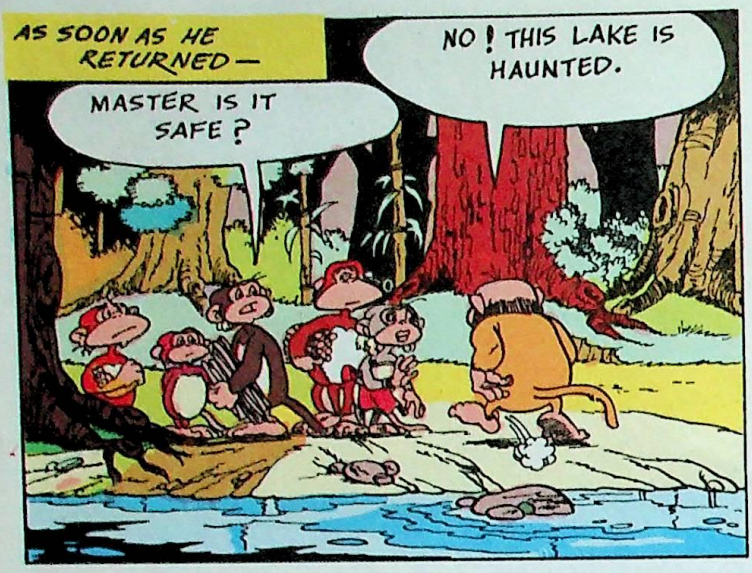

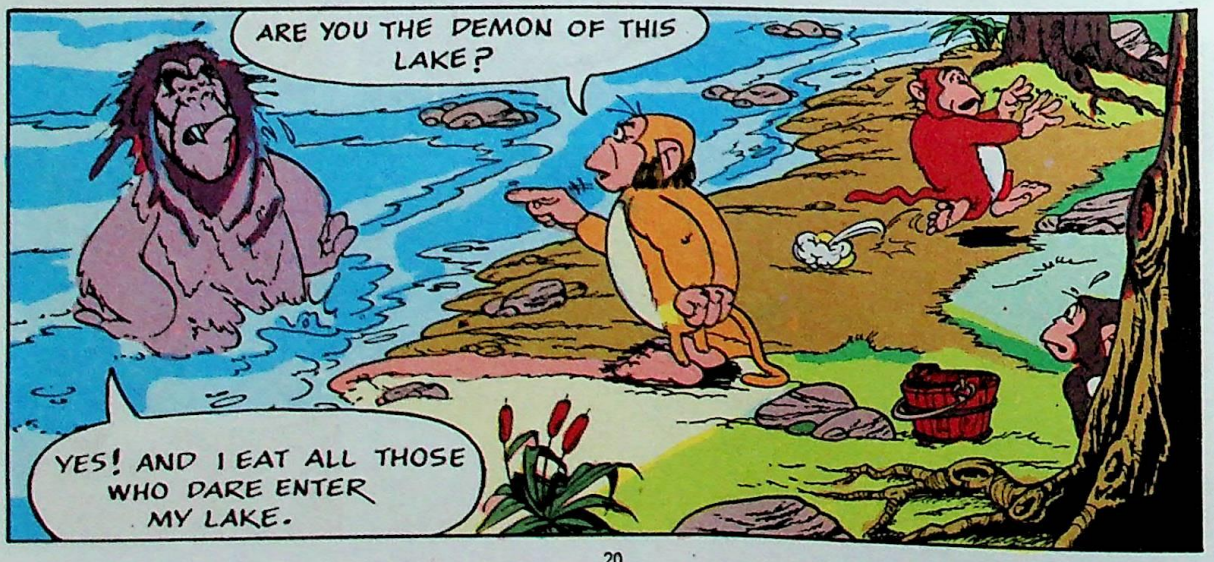

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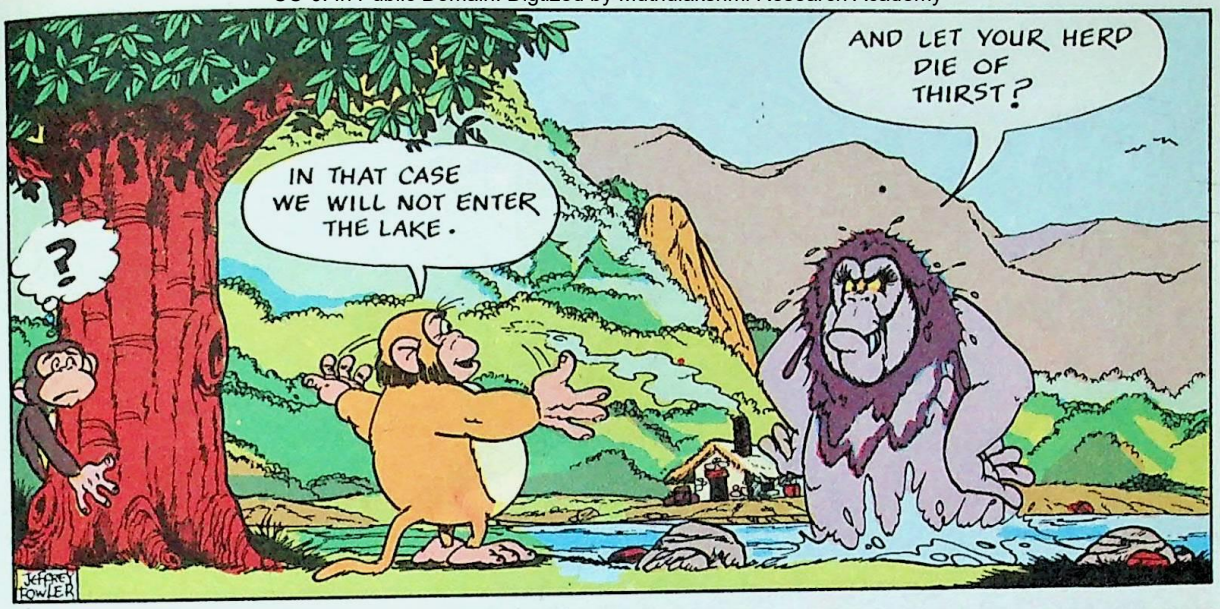

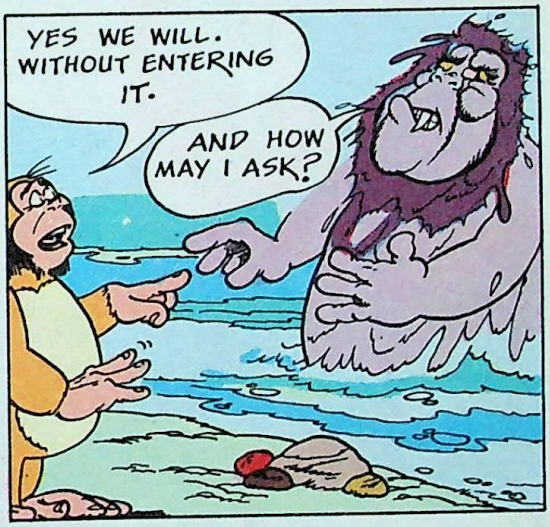

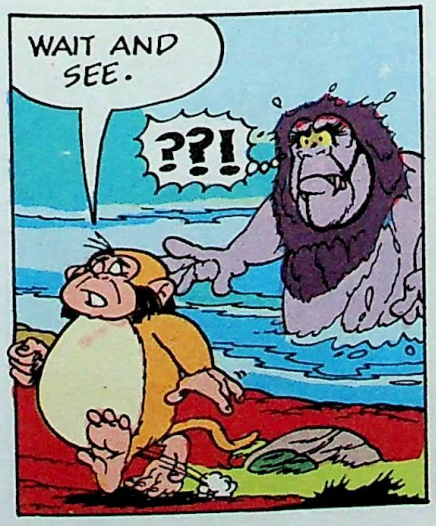

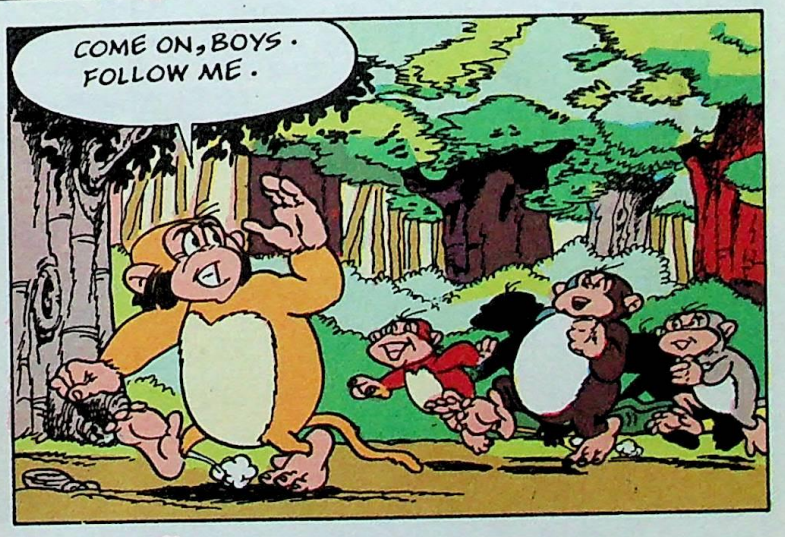

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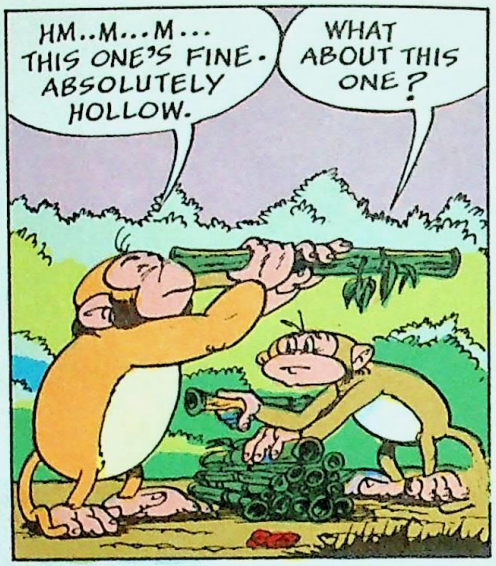

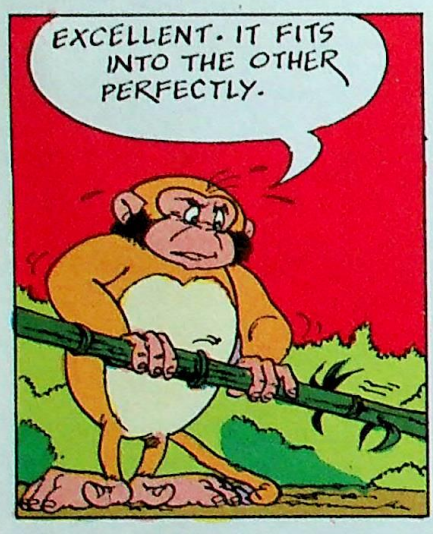

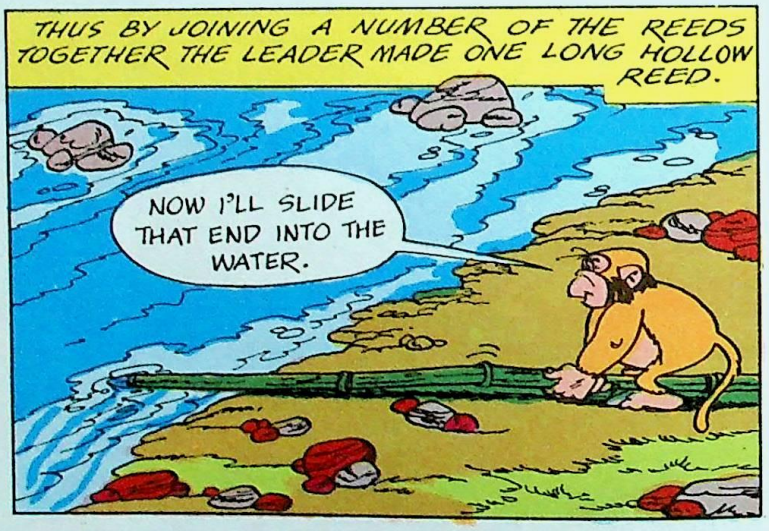

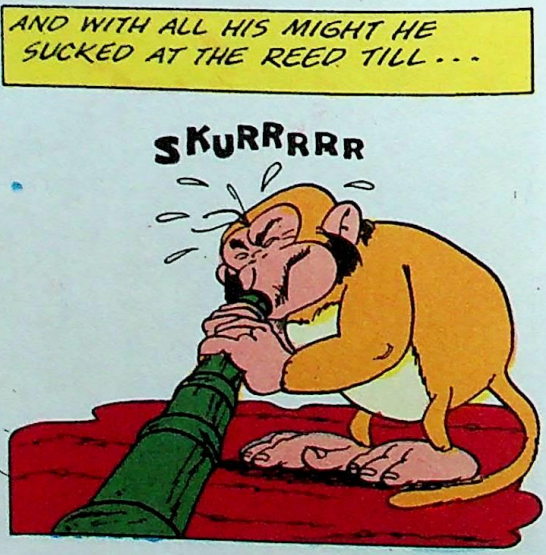

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*THE MONKEY'S HEART

THERE ONCE LIVED A MONKEY ON THE BANK OF A RIVER

WHAT A LOVELY DAY!

MR. MONKEY

A LITTLE DOWNSTREAM LIVED A CROCODILE AND HIS WIFE.

HAVE YOU SEEN THAT PLUMP MONKEY UPSTREAM? I'M LONGING TO EAT HIS HEART.

I WOULD LOVE TO GET IT FOR YOU. BUT HE LIVES UP IN THE TREES. HOW CAN I CATCH HIM?

YOU ARE A CROCODILE, AREN'T YOU? USE YOUR CUNNING.

HUMM! LET'S SEE. MY IDEA MIGHT JUST WORK.

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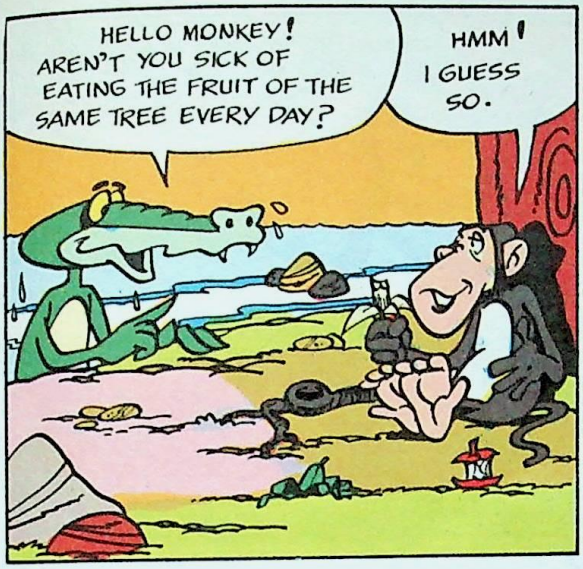

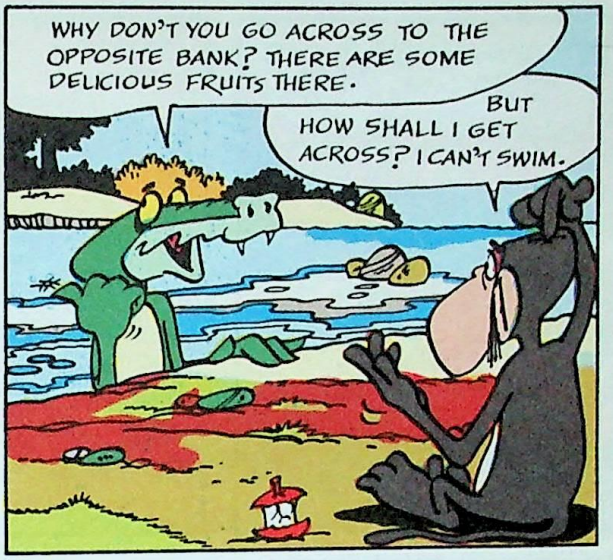

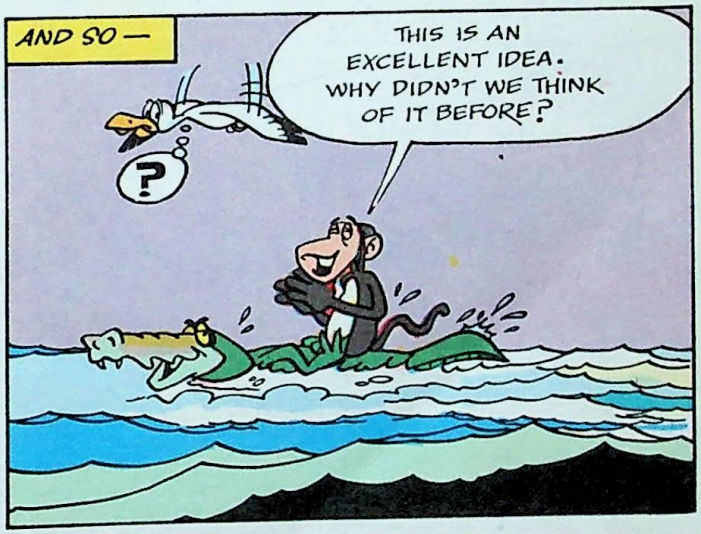

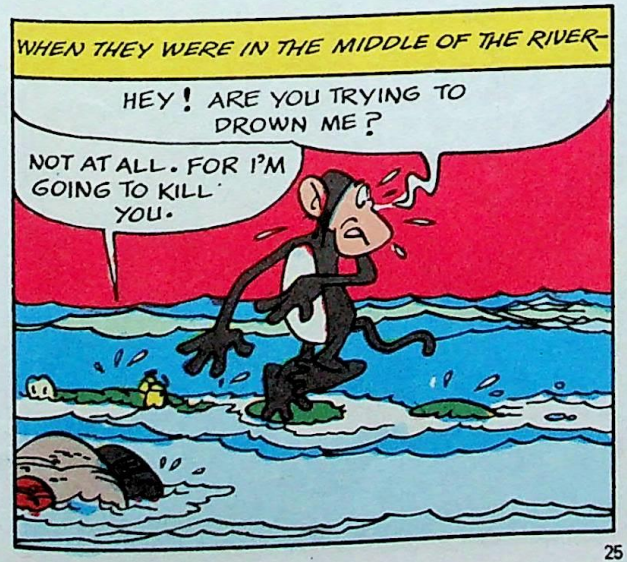

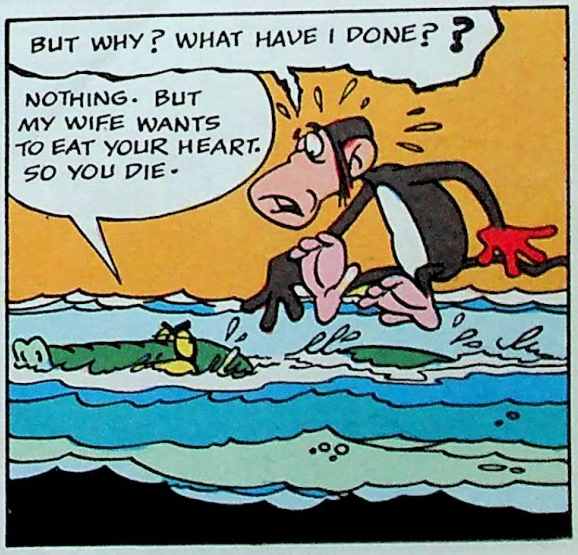

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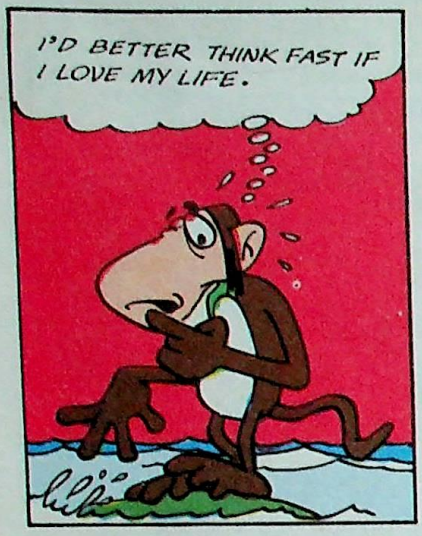

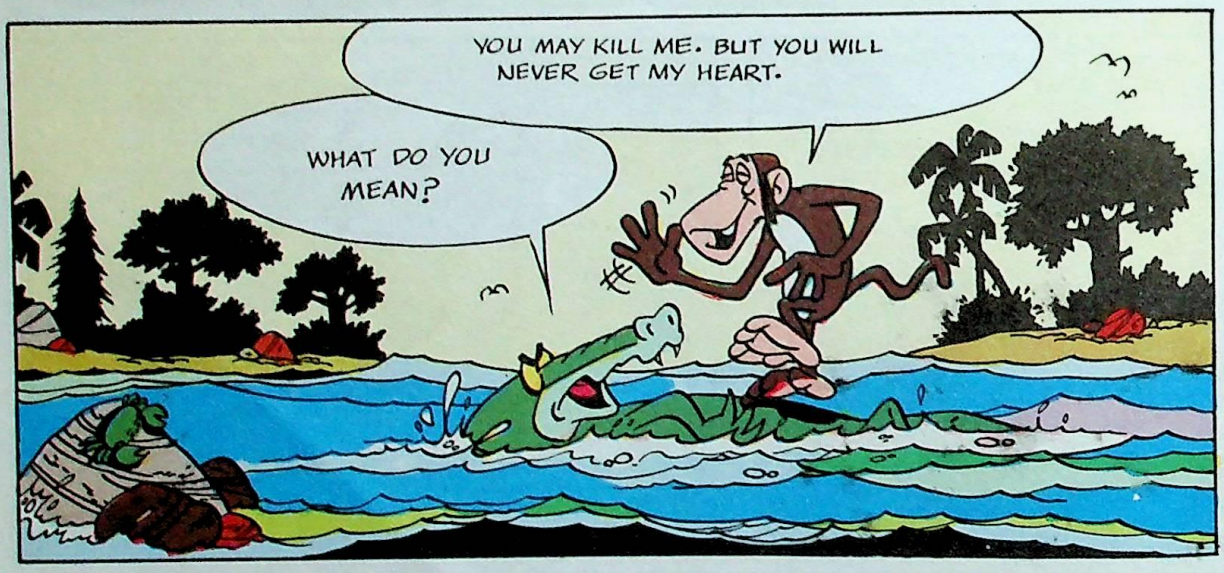

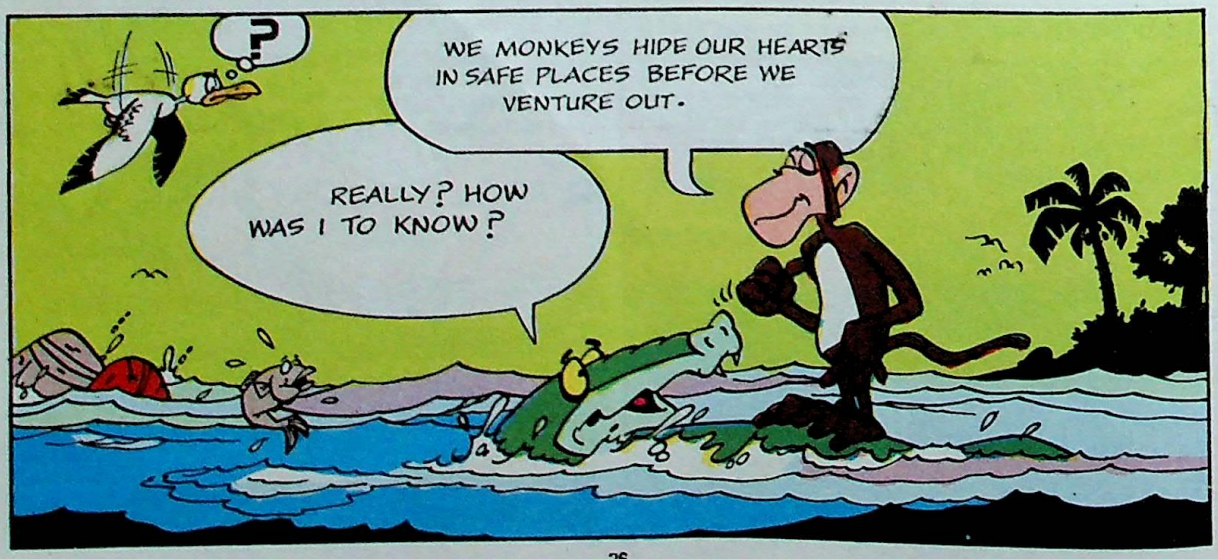

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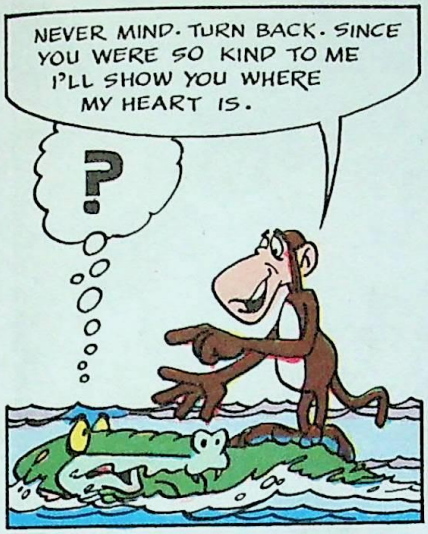

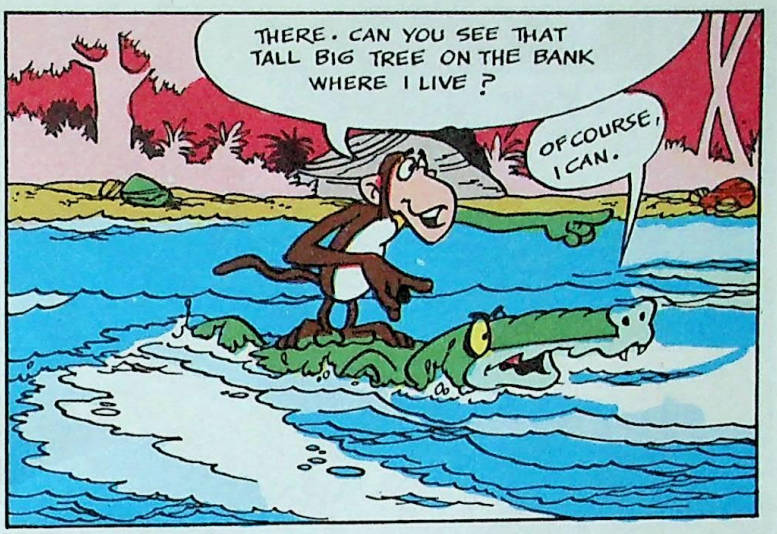

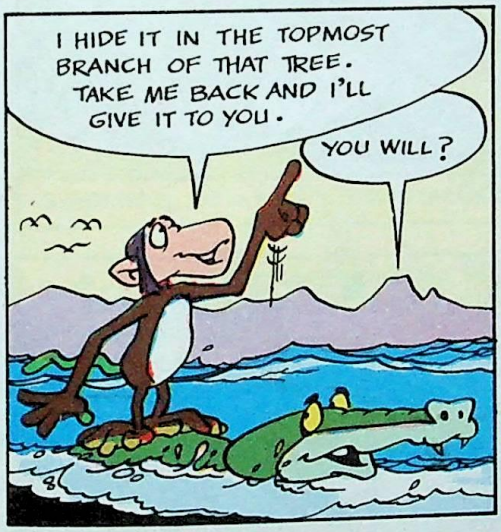

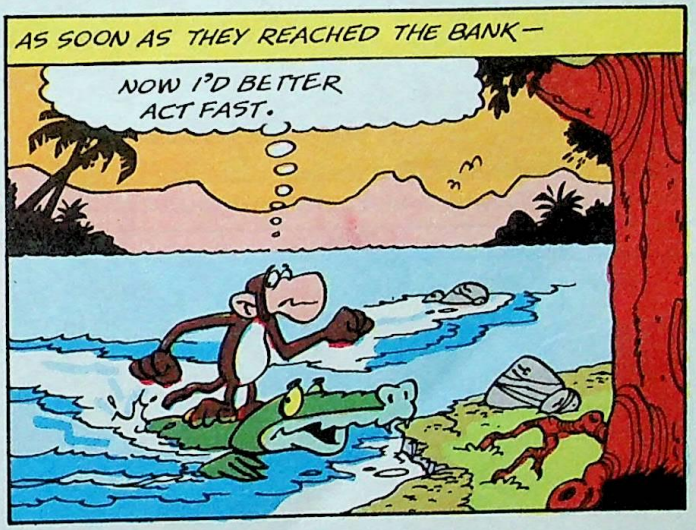

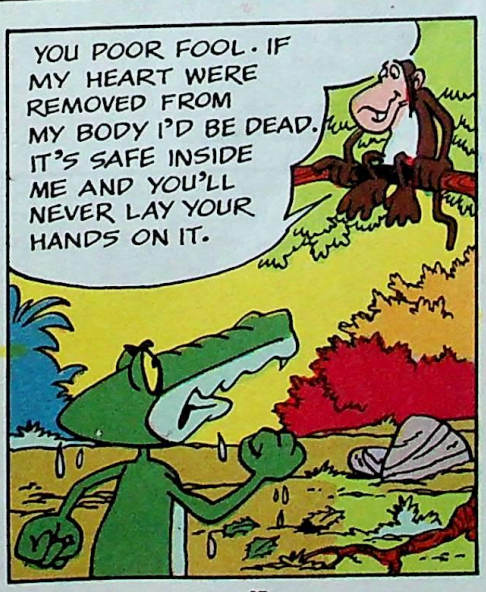

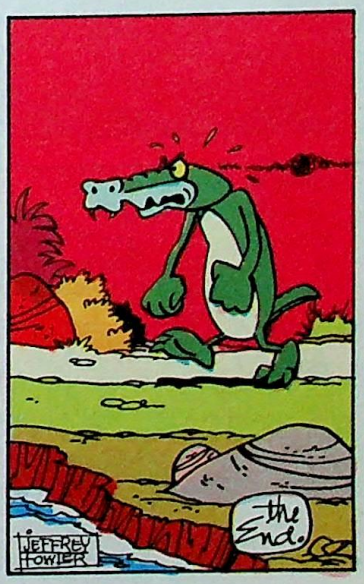

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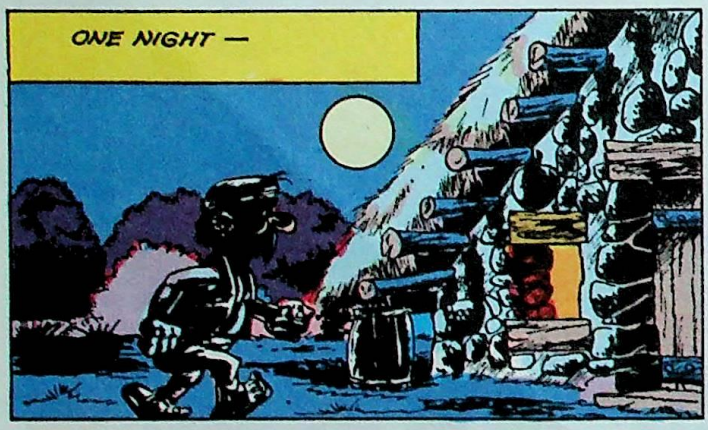
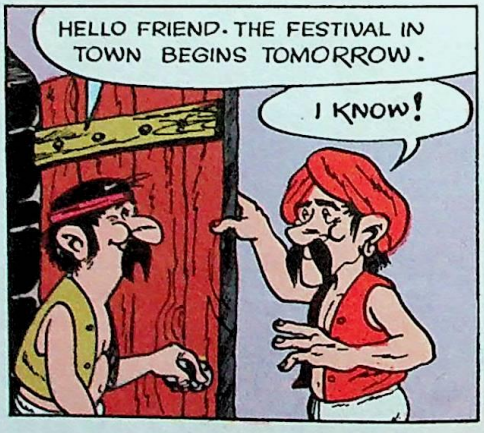
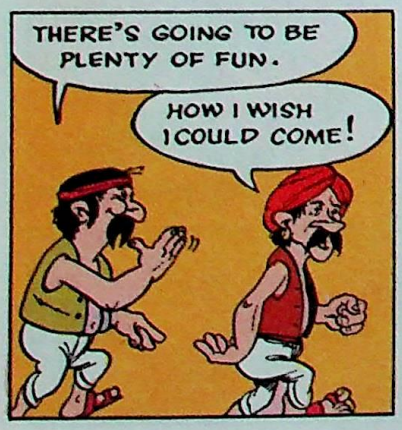
* THE MONKEYS AND THE GARDENER

THE KING OF VARANASI HAD A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN, WHICH WAS LOOKED AFTER BY A LOYAL GARDENER.







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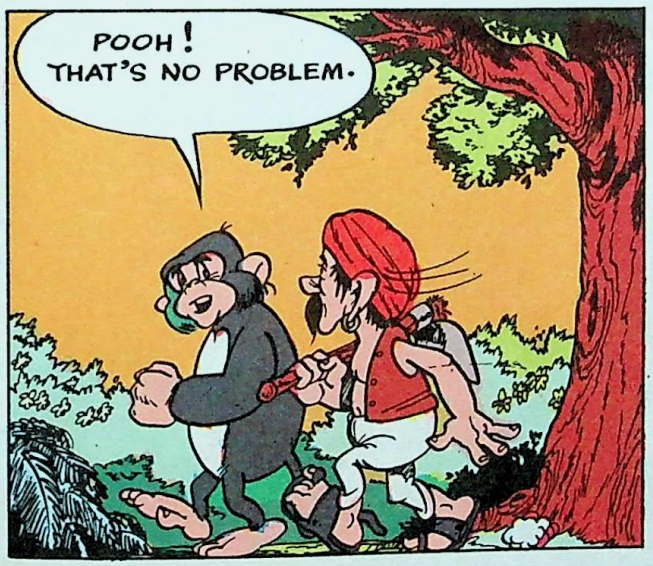

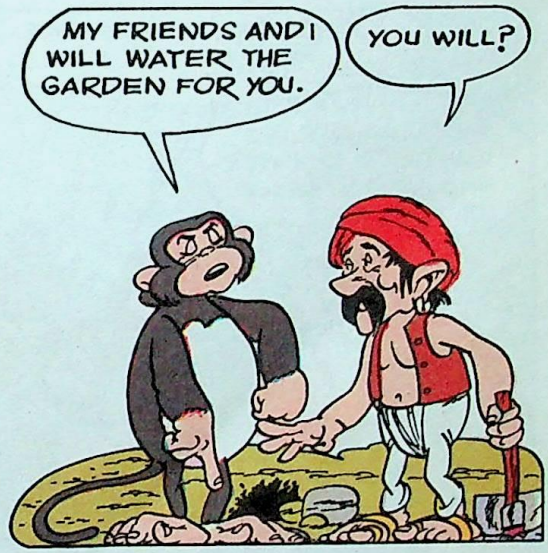

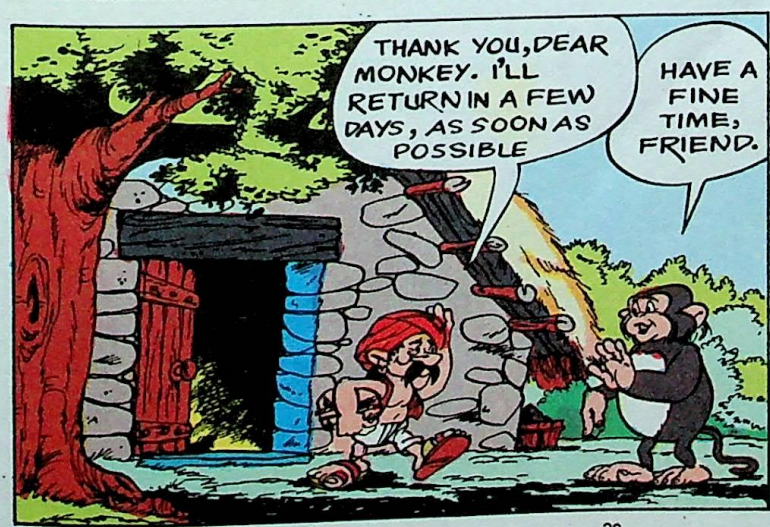

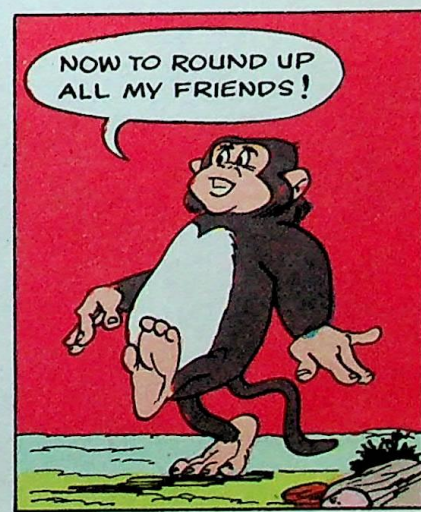

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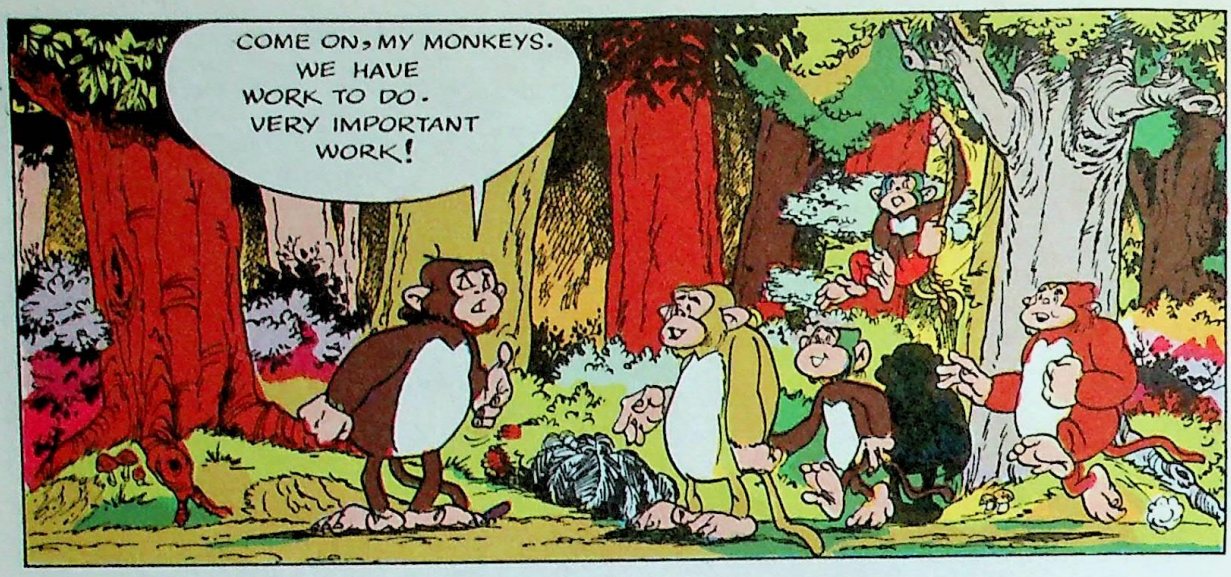

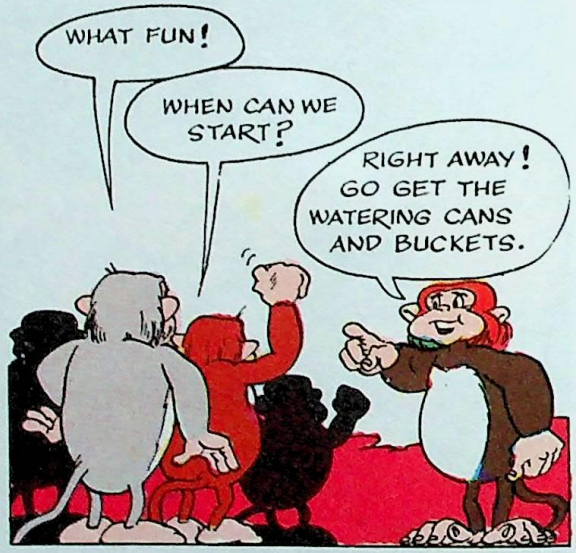

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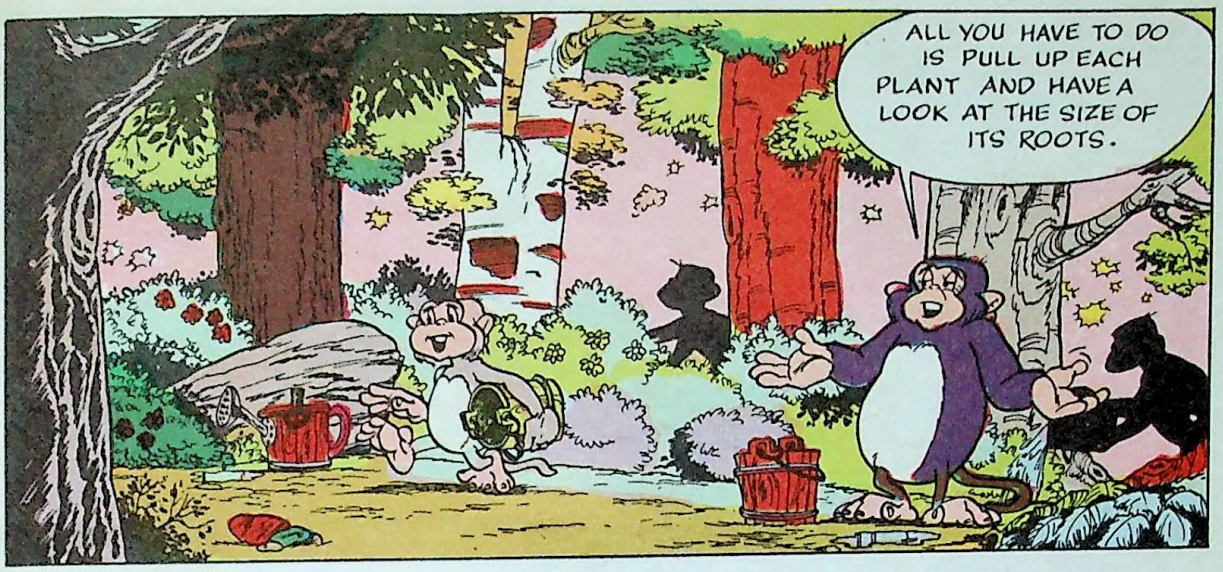

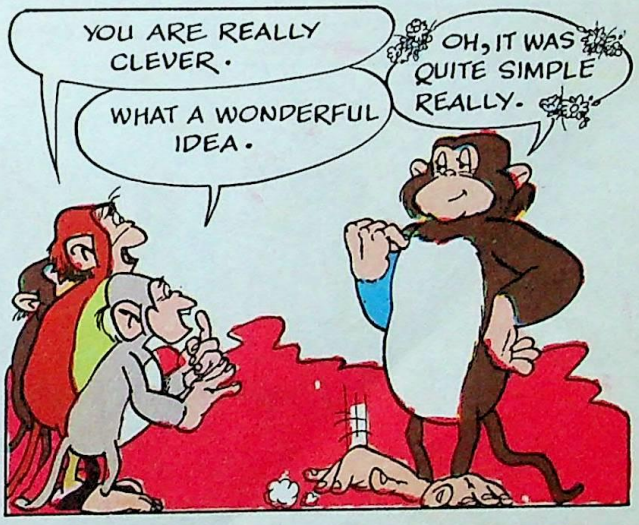

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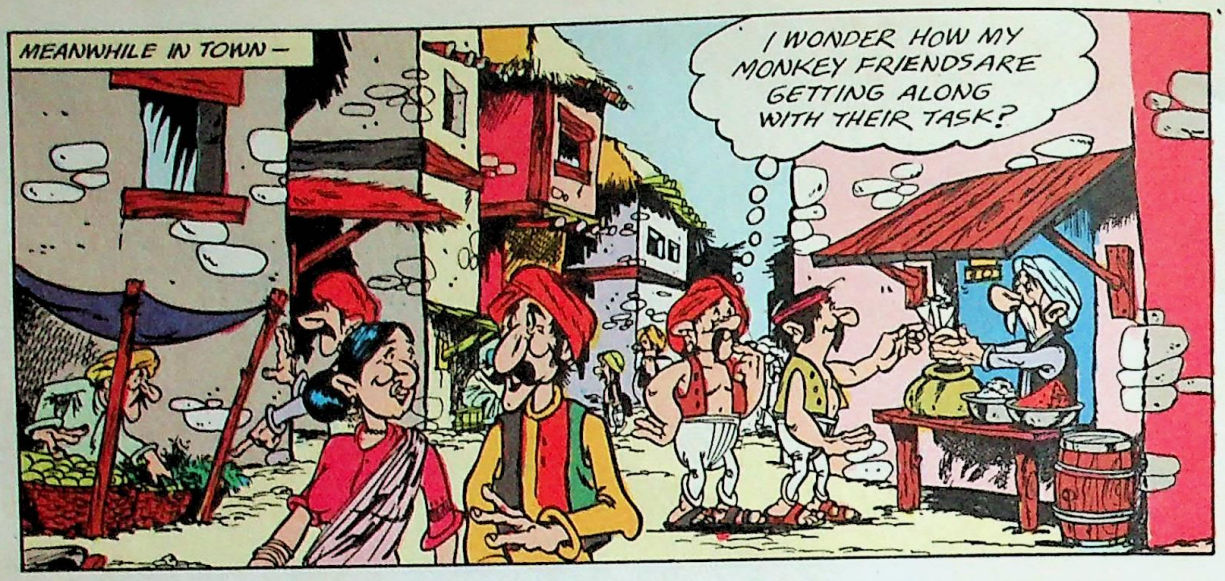

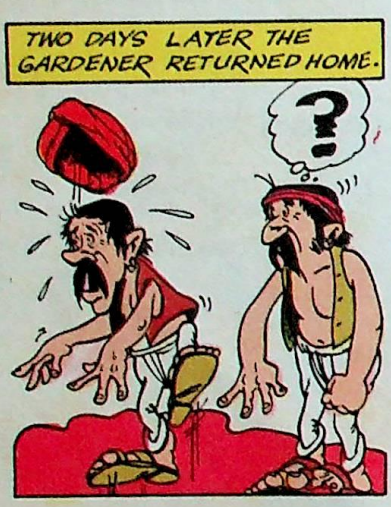

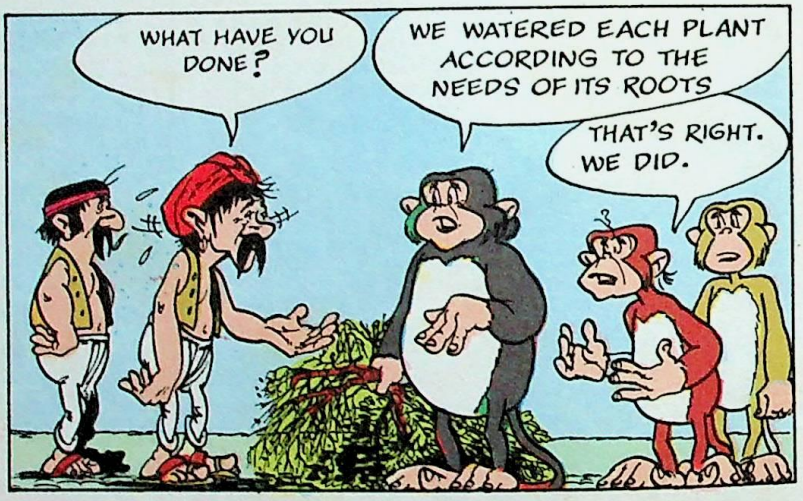

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